



## Island Biogeography: from Equilibrium to Disequilibrium Theories



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**Sala C2.2.15**

**15 de Outubro 2013, 17:00**

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Universidade de Lisboa**

The original equilibrium paradigm in which the Theory of Island Biogeography developed by MacArthur & Wilson (1967) is based, where isolation and area are considered as the main descriptor of the island species richness, has been widely debated. After the early embellishments of the theory, mainly centered in the vindication of the important role of speciation processes in oceanic islands, in the last years the fact that oceanic islands experience different ontogenetic stages along their existence has given rise to the inclusion of the island's age in Whittaker et al's General Dynamic Model. Here I claim for the further inclusion of the Pleistocene sea level regression-transgression cycles that islands have experienced in the last My as a fundamental fact in a new dynamic model of Island Biogeography, due to its crucial importance in shaping the present island's biotas.

**Organization under the FCT projects:**

- Conservation of plant biodiversity in the Macaronesian Hotspot: Integrating phylogenetic, taxonomic, and ecological approaches to study the Cape Verde endemic flora PTDC/BIA-BIC/4113/2012

- Biodiversity on oceanic islands: towards a unified theory PTDC/BIA-BIC/119255/2010