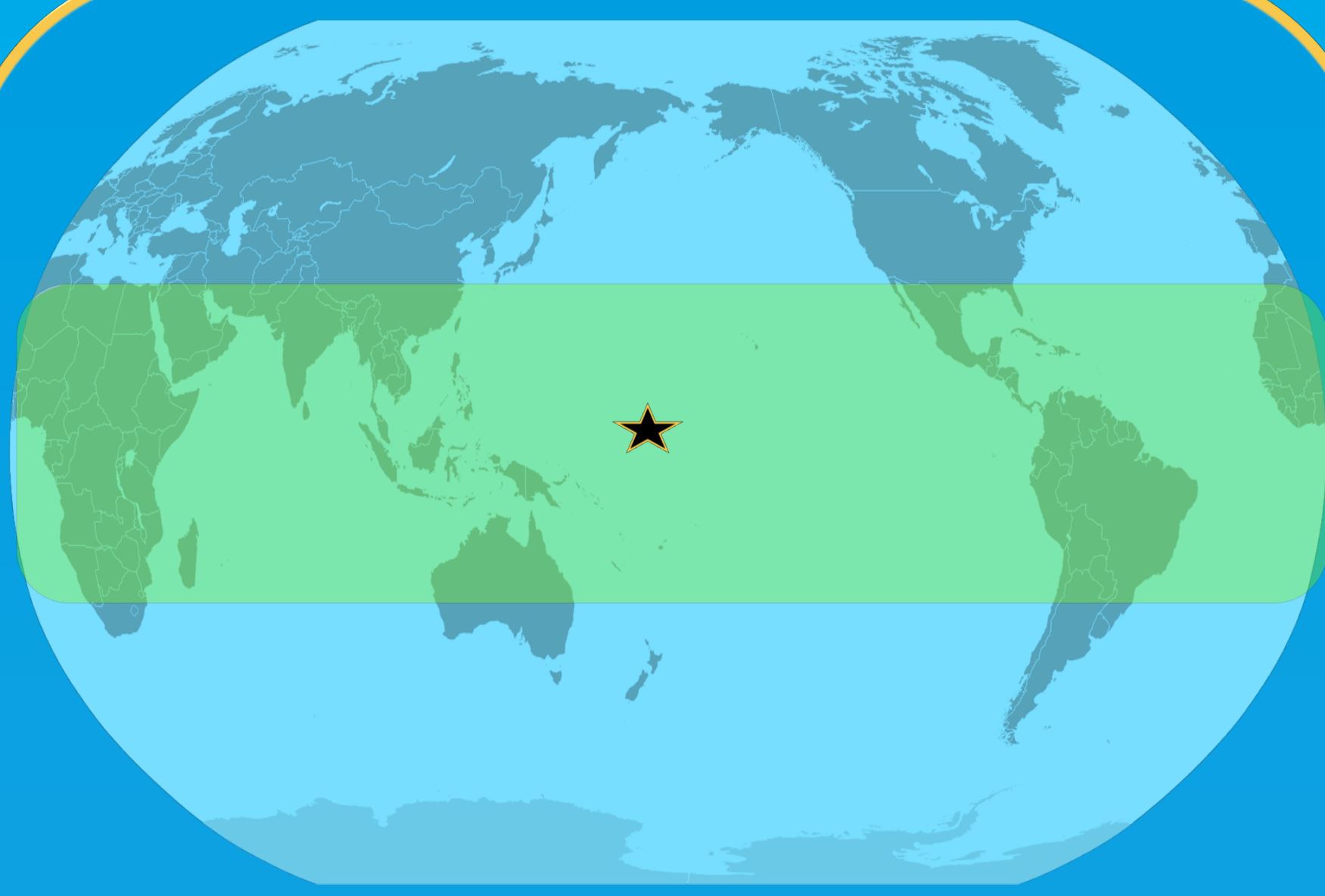


Hold the Salt, Please!

Herbivory Along a Salinity Gradient in a Pacific Island Mangrove



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Mangrove forests occur along coasts between 30° N and 30°S around the globe. This study was conducted in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, in the Pacific.

WHAT ARE MANGROVES?

Mangroves are Halophytes.
Halo = salt, -phyte = plant.
Mangroves grow in tidal areas and are the interface between terrestrial and marine systems.

WHO EATS MANGROVES?

Herbivores observed in this study were

Insects:

Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae

Lepidoptera: Geometridae

Crabs:

Sesamidae

Insects ate

69.1%

& preferred top leaves;



Crabs ate

26.7%

& preferred bottom leaves.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Sea level rise & increased storm frequency and intensity will drive changes in salinity regimes. How will shifts in salinity affect patterns of plant-arthropod interactions?

WHAT NEXT?

This study focused on chewing herbivores on seedlings. Lots of plant-arthropod interactions remain to be explored in mangrove systems. What questions would YOU ask?

References: Jayd et al (2019) Patterns of Mangrove Seedling Herbivory Across a Salinity Gradient, Unpublished manuscript. Cannicci et al (2008) *Aquatic Botany*, 89(2), 186-200; Dangremond et al, *Oecologia* (2015) 179: 1187. Ewel et al (1998) *Global Ecology and Biogeography Letters*, 7, 49-56. Feller et al (2017) *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 26:1326-1338.



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