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Graduate Positions in Invasion Ecology

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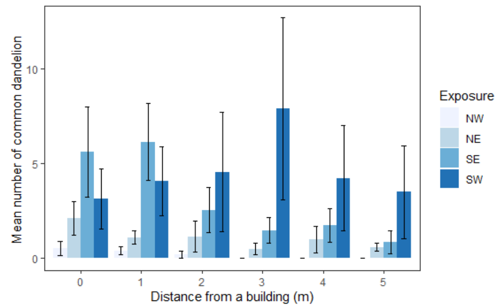
Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), introduced to Churchill



Distribution of non-native common dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) *vs.* exposure

Beetle herbivory on Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

I am looking for new Ph.D. and M.Sc. students to start work in 2026. My lab studies the ecology of plant invasions. I am particularly interested in recruiting students for research near Churchill, Manitoba (58°N, 94°W), concerning factors affecting invasions into arctic and subarctic ecosystems. Other recent work has centred on the effects of herbivores and pathogens on non-native species, and whether damage depends on latitude, isolation, and other factors. Information on our research can be found at my home page: **https://w3.utm.utoronto.ca/~w3pkota/**

We are a thriving department at a leading research institution, with excellent resources and many opportunities for interaction and collaboration. All graduate students are guaranteed a stable minimum income, currently about $40,000/yr from a variety of sources to cover tuition and living expense. Additional support is available for research and conference travel. Information on application procedures and our tri-campus graduate program can be found at our grad student website, **https://eeb.utoronto.ca/education/graduate**. Applications open in November, with a deadline in early January, but interested students should first contact me by e-mail: **peter.kotanen@utoronto.ca**.

A few recent publications:

1) Zhang, V.M. and P.M. Kotanen (2025) Low temperatures reduce establishment of new populations of invasive plants in a subarctic treeline environment. *Oecologia* 207: 167. DOI: 10.1007/s00442-025-05808-y.
2) Da Silva, F.D.B. and P.M. Kotanen (2024) The influence of shelter on abundance of the invasive dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, at its northern range limit. *Biological Invasions* 26: 2681-2689.
3) Zhang, V.M. and P.M. Kotanen (2023) Development of negative soil feedback by an invasive plant near the northern limit of its invaded range. *Plant Ecology* 224: 635-645.
4) Kotanen, P.M. (2020) Direct and indirect effects of herbivores influencing plant invasions. Chapter 12 in A. Traveset and D.M. Richardson (eds) *Plant Invasions: The Role of Biotic Interactions*, pp. 226-240. CABI, Wallingford, UK.
5) K.F. Abraham, C.M. Sharp, & P.M. Kotanen (2020) Habitat change at a multi-species goose breeding area, East Bay, Southampton Island, Nunavut, 1979 to 2010. *Arctic Science* 6: 95-113.

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Visitors at one of our plots

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