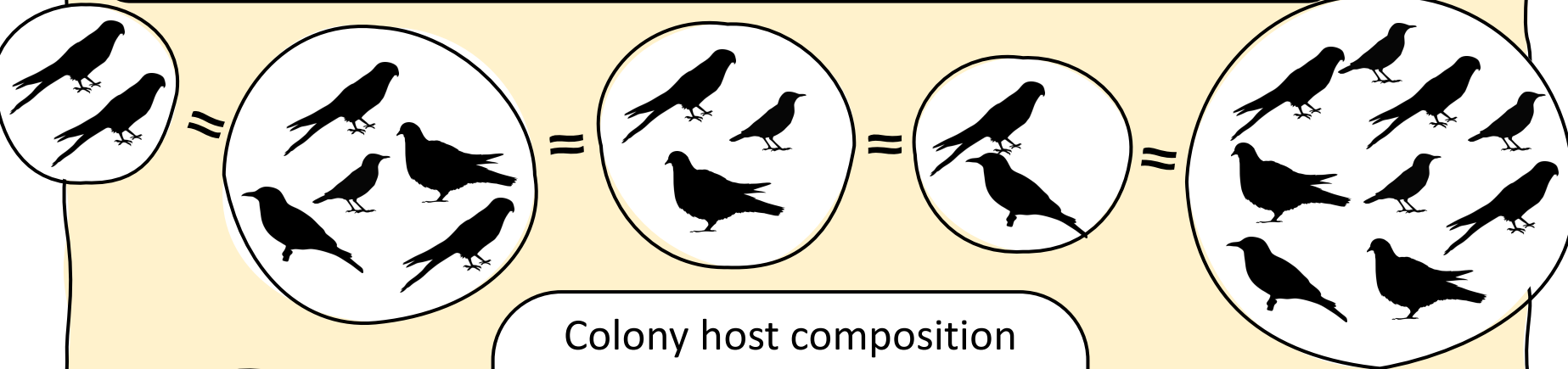
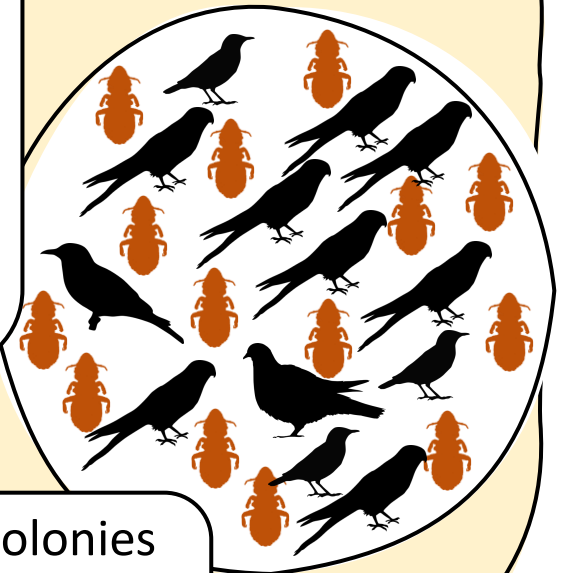
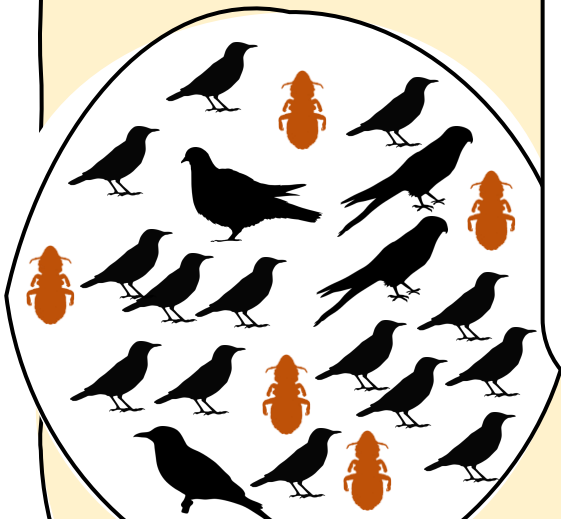


In mixed-species colonies, the ectoparasite infracommunity is defined by the host species identity, but it is similar across colonies with different sizes, densities, or host richness.



Colony host composition (number of breeding pairs of each host species), rather than colony size or density, drives the abundance of the most common ectoparasite, *Carnus hemapterus*.



Abundance of *C. hemapterus* decreases in colonies dominated by less suitable hosts, such as starlings, but increases in colonies dominated by more suitable hosts, such as lesser kestrels.

Silhouettes provided on www.phylopic.org

Graphical abstract with the main findings on the influence of colony traits on ectoparasite infestations in mixed-species colonies breeding in artificial nest-sites in Southern Portugal.