

3 July 1930.

Professor J.S. Huxley,
Zoological Dept.,
King's College,
Strand, W.C. 2.

Dear Huxley,

I have just read Gause, and think he is on the right lines, though he has not won very far. His scale (I - VI) of ecological condition is necessarily arbitrary and imposes upon him the graph on p. 322, which arises of necessity from his method, and does not represent any biological fact. E.g. A species can only have its average at I if it occurs nowhere else, and then its plasticity will necessarily appear to be zero. Consequently this curve might have been used to correct or standardise the S.D. figures for his separate species, but is itself quite meaningless. The same applies to the two curves of Fig. 6.

Yours sincerely,

[G.F. Gause, Ecology 11, 367 (1930)]