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Pathogen transmission at stage-structured infectious patches: killers and vaccinators

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Highlights

- Obligate-killer pathogens often convert infected hosts to spatially localized, infectious patches.
- An infectious patch passes through stages of transmission rate and virulence.
- Increasing between-stage difference in virulence may increase or decrease host number.
- Stage-structure transitions govern impact of patch differences on host population.
- Interaction of density-independent and disease mortality impacts dynamic complexity.

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