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**A simulation-based method to compare the pest suppression potential of predators: a case study with spiders.**

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**Abstract**

Assessing and comparing the pest killing capacity of predators is a crucial but laborious task during the implementation of sustainable farming systems. Critical attributes of assessment include quantifying predator's attack rate ( $a$ ) and handling time ( $T_h$ ). The maximum attack rate ( $T/T_h$ ) (i.e. the maximum number of prey that can be attacked by a predator during the time interval ( $T$ ) considered) could be a more precise and interpretable indicator of the potential suppression of pests exerted by a predator; however, its calculation only provides a point

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