

# **Microbial populations hardly ever grow logistically and never sublinearly**

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## **Abstract-**

**We investigate the growth dynamics of microbial populations, challenging the conventional logistic model. By analyzing empirical data from various biomes, we demonstrate that microbial growth is better described by a generalized logistic model, the  $\theta$ -logistic model. This accounts for different growth mechanisms and environmental fluctuations, leading to a generalized gamma distribution of abundance fluctuations. Our findings reveal that microbial growth is never sublinear, so they cannot endorse—at least in the microbial world—the recent proposal of this mechanism as a stability enhancer of highly diverse communities. These results have significant implications for understanding macroecological patterns and the stability of microbial ecosystems.**

**Index Terms-** Microbial Growth, Logistic Model, Macroecological Patterns, Environmental Fluctuations

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## **Citation:**

*Camacho-Mateu, J.; Castro, M.; Cuesta, José A.; Lampo, A. "Microbial populations hardly ever grow logistically and never sublinearly", Physical Review E, vol.111, no.4, pp.044404-1-044404-8, April, 2025.*