

1 **Supporting Information Document:**

2 This document contains two tables (Table S1 and Table S2) and seven figures (Figures S1-S7)

3 associated with the following manuscript:

4

5 **Title:** Tropicalization of temperate ecosystems in North America: The northward range  
6 expansion of tropical organisms in response to warming winter temperatures

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20 Table S1. Sources for the photos in Figure 1. The numbers correspond to the photo numbers in Figure 1. All but one of the photos are  
 21 from U.S. Government websites.

Number	Common name	Scientific name(s)	Source	Credit	Website
1	Burmese python	<i>Python molurus bivittatus</i>	USGS	Bryan Falk	<a href="https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/a-burmese-python-coiled-grass-everglades">https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/a-burmese-python-coiled-grass-everglades</a>
2	Joshua tree	<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>	NPS	Brad Sutton	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/news/newspaper.htm">https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/news/newspaper.htm</a>
3	Saguaro	<i>Carnegiea giganteus</i>	USFS	Charlie McDonald	<a href="https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/carnegiea_gigantea.shtml">https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/carnegiea_gigantea.shtml</a>
4	Red mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	USGS	Michael Osland	Not on a website
5	Melaleuca	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	USDA	NA	<a href="https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/fort-lauderdale-fl/fprl/docs/melaleuca/">https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/fort-lauderdale-fl/fprl/docs/melaleuca/</a>
6	Brazilian pepper	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	USDA	NA	<a href="https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/fort-lauderdale-fl/fprl/docs/schinus-terebinthifolius-brazilian-pepper-tree/">https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/fort-lauderdale-fl/fprl/docs/schinus-terebinthifolius-brazilian-pepper-tree/</a>
7	Cuban treefrog	<i>Osteopilus septentrionalis</i>	USGS	Brad M. Glorioso	<a href="https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/invasive-cuban-treefrog-new-orleans-la">https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/invasive-cuban-treefrog-new-orleans-la</a>
8	American crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	NPS	NA	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/news/joe-bay-is-open-to-non-motorized-boating.htm">https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/news/joe-bay-is-open-to-non-motorized-boating.htm</a>
9	Buffelgrass	<i>Pennisetum ciliare</i>	NPS	NA	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/nature/invasive-plant-species.htm">https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/nature/invasive-plant-species.htm</a>
10	Goliath grouper	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	NOAA	NA	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/endangered-species-conservation/goliath-grouper">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/endangered-species-conservation/goliath-grouper</a>
11	Sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	NOAA	NA	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/smalltooth-sawfish">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/smalltooth-sawfish</a>
12	Cobia	<i>Rachycentron canadum</i>	NOAA	NA	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/cobia">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/cobia</a>
13	Bull shark	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	NOAA	NA	<a href="https://graysreef.noaa.gov/science/research/fish_tagging/visitors.html">https://graysreef.noaa.gov/science/research/fish_tagging/visitors.html</a>
14	Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	USGS	NA	<a href="https://www.usgs.gov/centers/wetland-and-aquatic-research-center-war/c/science/manatee-health-assessment-and-biomedical?qt-science_center_objects=0&amp;qt-science_center_objects">https://www.usgs.gov/centers/wetland-and-aquatic-research-center-war/c/science/manatee-health-assessment-and-biomedical?qt-science_center_objects=0&amp;qt-science_center_objects</a>
15	Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	USGS	NA	<a href="https://www.usgs.gov/news/after-hurricane-devastation-sea-turtle-scientists-rebound-help-rebuild">https://www.usgs.gov/news/after-hurricane-devastation-sea-turtle-scientists-rebound-help-rebuild</a>
16	Kemp's ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	USGS	Margaret Lamont	<a href="https://archive.usgs.gov/archive/sites/soundwaves.usgs.gov/2018/02/staff.html">https://archive.usgs.gov/archive/sites/soundwaves.usgs.gov/2018/02/staff.html</a>
17	Greenhouse frog	<i>Eleutherodactylus planirostris</i>	USGS	Brad M. Glorioso	<a href="https://armi.usgs.gov/gallery/species.php?titis=173568">https://armi.usgs.gov/gallery/species.php?titis=173568</a>
18	Coqui frog	<i>Eleutherodactylus coqui</i>	USGS	Chris Brown	<a href="https://armi.usgs.gov/gallery/species.php?titis=173559">https://armi.usgs.gov/gallery/species.php?titis=173559</a>
19	<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	CDC	NA	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/features/stopmosquitoes/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/features/stopmosquitoes/index.html</a>
20	<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i>	<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i>	CDC	NA	<a href="https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/west-nile-virus">https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/west-nile-virus</a>
21	Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	USDA	Peggy Greb	<a href="https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/images/photos/oct19/d3980-1/">https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/images/photos/oct19/d3980-1/</a>
22	Organ pipe cactus	<i>Stenocereus thurberi</i>	NPS	NA	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/articles/nps-geodiversity-atlas-organ-pipe-cactus-national-monument-arizona.htm">https://www.nps.gov/articles/nps-geodiversity-atlas-organ-pipe-cactus-national-monument-arizona.htm</a>
23	Chapparal plants	<i>Ceanothus megacarpus</i> , <i>Malosma laurina</i>	NPS	NA	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/samo/learn/nature/chapparal.htm">https://www.nps.gov/samo/learn/nature/chapparal.htm</a>

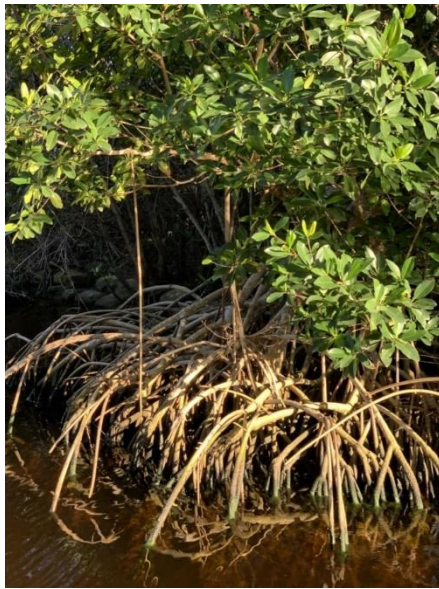
22

23 Table S2. Test for trends in winter temperature (Temp) data from four representative locations in  
 24 North America's tropical-temperate transition zones, reporting Spearman's correlation ( $r_s$ )  
 25 between year and: (1) mean winter temperature (Mean Avg Temp), (2) the absolute coldest  
 26 annual winter minimum temperature (Lowest Min Temp), and (3) the number of subzero days  
 27 each winter (# of days  $\leq 0^\circ\text{C}$ ). See trend depictions in Figure 4.

	Mean Avg Temp		Lowest Min Temp		# of days $\leq 0^\circ\text{C}$	
	$r_s$	$p$	$r_s$	$p$	$r_s$	$p$
San Francisco (CA)	0.55	0.000	0.62	<0.001	-0.66	<0.001
Tucson (AZ)	0.39	0.000	0.41	<0.001	-0.46	<0.001
New Orleans (LA)	0.19	0.104	0.23	0.047	-0.39	0.001
Tampa (FL)	0.32	0.007	0.22	0.068	-0.30	0.011

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29 Figure S1. Within the tropical-temperate transition zone, extreme cold temperatures control the  
30 northern distribution of foundation plant species like the saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*;  
31 left) and red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*; right). Photo credits: NPS (saguaro) and Michael  
32 Osland (mangrove).



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35 Figure S2. Winter temperature extremes control the distributions of subtropical fishes and drive  
36 movements of coastal migrants. The photo on the left is of the common snook (*Centropomus*  
37 *undecimalis*), aggregating at a spring head in northern Florida during winter. The photo on the  
38 right shows a biologist tagging a coastal migrant, cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*), with an  
39 acoustic transmitter during its run along the Florida panhandle. Photo credits: Florida FWC [Phil  
40 Stevens (left) and Jessica Carroll (right)].



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42 Figure S3. USGS scientists picking up cold-stunned sea turtles floating at the surface of St.  
43 Joseph Bay in northwestern Florida (USA) during an extreme cold event in 2018. Note the cold-  
44 stunned juvenile sea turtles in the boat. During cold stun events, mortality is often highest for  
45 juvenile, smaller sea turtles (Lamont et al. 2018). St. Joseph Bay is located in the northeastern  
46 Gulf of Mexico, approximately 50 km southeast of Panama City and 350 km northwest of Tampa  
47 Bay. Photo credit: USGS.



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51 Figure S4. Extreme cold events constrain the distribution of many invasive non-native tropical  
52 reptile species. Burmese pythons (*Python bivittatus*) are an especially harmful and well-known  
53 example of the negative ecological impacts of pet trade-driven tropical reptile introductions. This  
54 large constrictor snake is an opportunistic apex predator, whose expansion within and around  
55 Everglades National Park (southwestern Florida, USA) has decimated mammal, bird, and other  
56 prey populations. Burmese pythons are also sensitive to cold temperature extremes and expected  
57 to expand northward in response to warming winters. Photo credit: USGS.



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60 Figure S5. Dispersal constraints may affect the ability of some species to expand their range  
61 northward in response to warming winters. However, there are species [e.g., the Cuban treefrog  
62 (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*), as shown in this photo] that have successfully established  
63 populations in new areas following long-distance transport (>100 km) in ornamental tropical  
64 plants. These species have inadvertently traveled on horticultural shipments from Florida and  
65 other more tropical locations, which is a long-distance dispersal pathway that may enable more  
66 rapid poleward range expansion of certain amphibian species in response to climate change.  
67 Photo credit: Brad M. Glorioso.

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71 Figure S6. Near the northern limits of the distribution of the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus*  
72 *manatus*), individuals of the southeastern United States forage on seagrass and submerged  
73 aquatic vegetation. With advancing cold the population contracts toward Florida warm-water  
74 refugia where they often form large aggregations. This photo shows an aggregation at an  
75 artificial warm-water discharge produced by a thermoelectric power plant. Photo credit: USGS.



76

77 Figure S7. The northern range limits of most tropical insect species are governed by cold  
78 temperature extremes, which can lead to mortality of eggs, larvae, pupae, or adults. This photo is  
79 of *Aedes aegypti*, which is a cold-sensitive mosquito species. This species is expected to  
80 increasingly move northward due to warming winters and become more established in other  
81 parts of the southern United States. Photo credit: CDC.



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