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What's in the diet? DNA-based analysis for qualitative and quantitative assessment of animal diet

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Curriculum Vitae

Kevin Groen was born on March 8, 1991, in Schiedam, The Netherlands. He has established himself as an environmental biologist with a strong focus on molecular ecology. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) at Leiden University, where he explores the use of DNA-based methods to assess human impacts on biodiversity. His research includes leading projects on the diet composition of wolves recolonizing the Netherlands and contributing to studies on plant-pollinator networks, as well as the diet of carps and bats through DNA analysis and assessing fish diversity through environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis.

Kevin started his Ph.D. in Environmental Biology at the same institute in 2017. His doctoral research was centered on using DNA analysis to quantify seed intake for improving pesticide risk assessment in small mammals and investigating the effects of fencing on lion diets in Kenyan national parks. He holds a Master's degree in Biology with a specialization in Evolution, Biodiversity & Conservation from Leiden University (obtained in December 2016), where he conducted research in both the Western Himalayas and the Netherlands, focusing on bird diversity, macroinvertebrate abundance, and landscape ecology. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Life Science & Technology from Delft University of Technology and Leiden University (obtained in September 2013).

Beyond his academic pursuits, Kevin is actively involved in environmental conservation through his role as a board member of the Leo Foundation, which focuses on conserving large carnivores and volunteering at a bird rehabilitation center. He has also been involved in science communication through various roles, including as a TV presenter for BNNVARA and founder of 'Groen Voorziening', an initiative promoting nature education. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the Stans Prize for best student thesis and outreach, and he has secured grants from organizations such as National Geographic and the KNAW Academy. He has also authored a book, "The Wild Wild East," which explores East-European nature areas.

List of publications

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- Groen, K.**, Jacob, J., Hein, S., Didaskalou, E. A., Van Bodegom, P. M., Hahne, J., & Trimbos, K. B. (2023). DNA-based seed intake quantification for enhanced ecological risk assessment of small mammals. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*, **259**, 115036. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoenv.2023.115036>
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- Groen, K.** & Trimbos, K. B. (2022). Alle muizenkeutels verzamelen. *Mare*.
- Groen, K.** & Groen, M. (22 juni 2020). Gewapend met stoepkrijt willen broers Marvin en Kevin zorgen dat we 'onkruid' meer waarderen. *EenVandaag (NPO | AVROTROS)*. [interview].
- Groen, K.** (16 september 2017). 'Groene tweeling' krijgt eigen tv-show over stadsnatuur. *Algemeen Dagblad*. [interview].