“Evolution often appears random, even when driven by the deterministic process of natural selection, because we just aren’t aware of all the environmental fluctuations and other factors taking place that drive change,” says Utah State University geneticist Zach Gompert. “If we had a better understanding of the mechanisms at play, we might have a better picture of evolutionary change and its predictability.”

Gompert and colleagues used data about stick insects from the past to test their ideas of evolution predictability. Read the full article by Mary-Ann Muffoletto in Utah State Today.