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*Research article*

## Global dynamics of a modified Leslie-Gower predator-prey model with Beddington-DeAngelis functional response and prey-taxis

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**Abstract:** In this paper, our purpose is to discuss the global dynamics of a modified Leslie-Gower predator-prey model with Beddington-DeAngelis functional response and prey-taxis under homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions. First, we derive that the global classical solutions of the system are globally bounded by taking advantage of the Morse's iteration of the parabolic equation, which further arrives at the global existence of classical solutions with a uniform-in-time bound. In addition, we establish the global stability of the spatially homogeneous coexistence steady states under certain conditions on parameters by constructing Lyapunov functionals.

**Keywords:** Leslie-Gower predator-prey; Beddington-DeAngelis response; global stability; boundedness; prey-taxis

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### 1. Introduction

In the ecosystem, the interaction of predator and prey is well-known and essential. It has become a hot topic to study the dynamic behavior of a predator-prey model. A famous predator-prey system established by Leslie and Gower in 1960 is of the form

$$\begin{cases} \frac{du}{dt} = \lambda u - au^2 - v\phi(u, v), \\ \frac{dv}{dt} = (h - \frac{ev}{u})v, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $u(t)$  and  $v(t)$  are the population density of prey and predator at time  $t$ , respectively. Here  $\lambda$  and  $a$  are the intrinsic growth rate and the strength of competition among individuals of preys. The term  $\frac{ev}{u}$  is called the Leslie-Gower term which means the loss in the predator population only due to rarity of its favorite food, where the parameter  $e$  is a measure of the amount of food provided by the prey

transformed into the birth of predator. The environment carrying capacity for the predator  $\frac{u}{e}$  is not constant but proportional to the number of the prey. And they found that the predator could switch over to other preys even though its growth would be limited by the shortage of its favorite food. Hence, a positive constant  $d$  should be added into the denominator of the Leslie-Gower term, which is called a modified Leslie-Gower term  $\frac{ev}{u+d}$ .

The functional response function  $\phi(u, v)$  represents the consumption of prey. It is particularly significant to select an appropriate response function to describe the relationship between the predator and the prey. As is known to all, the functional response can be classified into two types: prey-dependent and predator-dependent. The earliest functional response function ( $\phi(u) = u$ ) was proposed by Lotka and Volterra [1]. In the following research process, many scholars proposed several different response functions according to different predators and preys, among which Holling II type ( $\phi(u) = \frac{qu}{\alpha+bu}$ ) has been studied by a large number of researchers [2].

Recent accumulating evidence shows that predator-dependent is more realistic than prey-dependent in depicting the consuming of the prey. The classic example is Beddington-DeAngelis (abbreviated as B-D) functional response proposed by Beddington [3] and DeAngelis [4], which has the following form

$$\phi(u, v) = \frac{qu}{\alpha + bu + cv},$$

where  $q$  is the consumption rate;  $\alpha, b, c$  mean the saturation constant, the saturation constant for an alternative prey and the predator interference, respectively. Compared with Holling-II functional response, B-D functional response has an extra term  $cv$  in the denominator modeling mutual interference among predators, which can exhibit more plentiful, more complicated and more acceptable dynamics [5–7]. In [8], Yu considered B-D functional response into the system (1.1). For this case, (1.1) becomes

$$\begin{cases} \frac{du}{dt} = \lambda u - au^2 - \frac{quv}{\alpha + bu + cv}, \\ \frac{dv}{dt} = (h - \frac{ev}{u+d})v \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

with an initial condition  $u_0(t) = u_0, v_0(t) = v_0$ . He discussed the structure of nonnegative equilibria to (1.2) and their local stability. In addition, he applied the fluctuation lemma and Lyapunov direct method to get the global asymptotic stability of a positive equilibrium.

In the real world, the distribution of population density in a fixed bounded domain is inhomogeneous which makes that the population in high density area will spread to its low density area. Hence, establishing and studying various reaction-diffusion systems have been an effective way for researchers to further explore and predict biological evolution [9]. Through choosing appropriate scale transformation, (1.2) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = d_1 \Delta u + \lambda u - au^2 - \frac{quv}{1 + bu + cv}, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = d_2 \Delta v + (1 - \frac{ev}{u+d})v. \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

In fact, on top of random diffusion of the predator and the prey, it has been recognized that the spatial-temporal variations of the predator moves along the gradient direction of the prey. This kind of movement which is not random but directed is called prey-taxis, various types of predator-prey models with prey-taxis have received great attention among mathematical ecologist [10, 11]. In detail, Wu, Shi

and Wu [12] in 2016 was the first one that established the global boundedness for such model in higher dimension space with small  $\chi > 0$ , specific models are as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u - \chi \nabla(q(u)\nabla v) + c\phi(u, v) - g(u), & x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = d\Delta v + f(v) - \phi(u, v), & x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) \geq 0, v(x, 0) = v_0(x) \geq 0, & x \in \Omega. \end{cases} \quad (1.4)$$

Later on, Jin and Wang [13] analyzed the global boundedness for such model in two-dimensional domain and also prove the global stability of prey-taxis system. Wang and Wang [14] concerned the reaction-diffusion systems modeling the population dynamics of two predators and one prey with nonlinear prey-taxis in 2018. Wu and Ni [15] in 2021 proved the global existence and boundedness of solutions of a diffusive prey-predator model with prey-taxis and trophic interactions of three levels. And prey-taxis and predator-taxis also have an essential impact on pattern formation [16–18].

Coupled with the factors mentioned above, a modified Leslie-Gower predator-prey model with Beddington-DeAngelis functional response and prey-taxis can be formulated as:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = d_1 \Delta u + \lambda u - au^2 - \frac{quv}{1 + bu + cv}, & x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = d_2 \Delta v - \chi \nabla(v \nabla u) + v(1 - \frac{ev}{u + d}), & x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) \geq 0, v(x, 0) = v_0(x) \geq 0, & x \in \Omega. \end{cases} \quad (1.5)$$

Here  $u(x, t)$  and  $v(x, t)$  represent the densities of prey and predator at place  $x$  and time  $t$ ,  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$  and  $n$  is the outward unit normal vector on  $\partial\Omega$ .  $\chi$  is called prey-taxis coefficient, and prey-taxis is called attractive (repulsive) if  $\chi > 0$  ( $\chi < 0$ ). The parameters  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are the diffusion rates of the prey and predator respectively. And we assume that all parameters are positive and have the same meaning as above. Our first main result is the following:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with smooth boundary. Suppose that  $(u_0, v_0) \in [W^{1,\infty}]^2$  with  $u_0, v_0 \geq 0 (\neq 0)$ . Then the problem (1.5) has a unique nonnegative global classical solution  $(u, v) \in [C(\bar{\Omega} \times [0, \infty)) \cap C^{2,1}(\bar{\Omega} \times (0, \infty))]^2$  satisfying*

$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)} + \|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C, \quad \text{for all } t > 0, \quad (1.6)$$

where  $C > 0$  is a constant independent of  $t$ , and in particular  $0 < u \leq K_0$ , where

$$K_0 =: \max \left\{ \|u_0\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}, \frac{\lambda}{a} \right\}. \quad (1.7)$$

It's easy to see that the system (1.5) admits four non-negative solutions:

- (i) the trivial solution  $E_0 = (0, 0)$ ;
- (ii) the semi-trivial solutions  $E_1 = (0, \frac{d}{e})$  and  $E_2 = (\frac{\lambda}{a}, 0)$ ;
- (iii) there exists a unique positive constant solution  $E^* =: (u^*, v^*)$  when

$$(H_0) \quad \lambda > \frac{qd}{e + cd}$$

holds, where

$$u^* = \frac{-A_1 + \sqrt{A_1^2 - 4A_0A_2}}{2A_0}, \quad v^* = \frac{u^* + d}{e},$$

$$A_0 = abe + ac, \quad A_1 = acd + ae + q - be\lambda - c\lambda \quad \text{and} \quad A_2 = qd - e\lambda - cd\lambda.$$

The following important property on positive constant equilibrium  $E^*$  can be presented.

**Theorem 1.2** (global stability). *If condition  $(H_0)$  and the following conditions are satisfied*

$$q < \min \left\{ \frac{4d_1d_2u^*}{\chi^2 K_0^2 dv^*}, \frac{acde}{(K_0 + d)(be + c)} \right\}, \tag{1.8}$$

*then the positive constant equilibrium  $E^*$  is globally asymptotically stable. Furthermore, it follows that*

$$\|u - u^*\|_{L^\infty} + \|v - v^*\|_{L^\infty} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad t \rightarrow \infty, \tag{1.9}$$

*where the convergence is exponential.*

Herein, we briefly outline the plan of this paper: Section 2 proves some estimates and the local existence of the global classical solutions; Section 3 addresses the boundedness and global existence of solutions; Section 4 analyzes the global stability of co-existence steady state.

## 2. Local existence and preliminaries

In what follows, we shall abbreviate  $\int_{\Omega} f dx$  as  $\int_{\Omega} f$  and  $\|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$  as  $\|f\|_{L^2}$  for simplicity and use  $c_i (i = 1, 2, 3 \dots)$  to denote a generic constant which may vary in the context. We first state the existence of local-in-time classical solution of the system (1.5) by using the abstract theory (cf. [19]).

**Lemma 2.1** (Local existence). *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with smooth boundary. Assume  $(u_0, v_0) \in [W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)]^2$  with  $u_0, v_0 \geq 0 (\neq 0)$ . Then there exists a positive constant  $T_{\max} \in (0, \infty]$  (the maximal existence time) such that the problem (1.5) has a unique classical solution  $(u, v) \in [C(\bar{\Omega} \times [0, T_{\max})) \cap C^{2,1}(\bar{\Omega} \times (0, T_{\max}))]^2$  satisfying  $u, v \geq 0$  for all  $t > 0$ . Moreover, we have*

$$\text{either } T_{\max} = \infty \quad \text{or} \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow T_{\max}} (\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} + \|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^\infty}) = \infty. \tag{2.1}$$

*Proof.* The local-in-time existence and uniqueness of classical solution to the problem (1.5) follow from Amann’s theorem [20]. The specific proof steps can refer to [21, Lemma 2.1]. □

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a bounded domain with sufficient smooth boundary. Under the conditions Theorem 1.1, the solution  $(u, v)$  of the system (1.5) satisfies

$$0 < u(x, t) \leq K_0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $K_0$  is defined by (1.7), and it further follows that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(x, t) \leq \frac{\lambda}{a}, \quad \text{for all } x \in \bar{\Omega}. \quad (2.3)$$

*Proof.* The proof procedure refers to Lemma 2.2 in [13].  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3** (see [21, 25]). Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a bounded domain with sufficient smooth boundary. Let  $T \in (0, \infty]$  and suppose that  $u \in C^0(\bar{\Omega} \times [0, T]) \cap C^{2,1}(\bar{\Omega} \times (0, T))$  is a solution of

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = d_1 \Delta u - u + g_0(u, v), & x \in \Omega, t \in (0, T), \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, t \in (0, T) \end{cases}$$

where  $g_0(u, v) = u + \lambda u - au^2 - \frac{quv}{1 + bu + cv}$  and  $g_0(u, v) \in L^\infty((0, T); L^p(\Omega))$ , then there exists a constant  $C_1$  such that

$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{W^{1,r}} \leq C_1, \quad \text{with } r \in \begin{cases} [1, \frac{np}{n-p}), & \text{if } p \geq n, \\ [1, \infty], & \text{if } p > n. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $(u, v)$  be the solution of the system (1.5), then there exist two positive constants  $M$  and  $C_2$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} v \leq M =: \max \left\{ \int_{\Omega} v_0, \frac{|\Omega|}{\gamma} \right\} \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}) \quad (2.4)$$

and

$$\int_t^{t+\tau} \int_{\Omega} v^2 \leq C_2 =: \frac{M\tau}{\gamma} \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, \tilde{T}_{\max}), \quad (2.5)$$

where  $\gamma = \frac{e}{K_0 + d}$ ,  $\tau =: \min\{1, \frac{1}{2}T_{\max}\}$  and  $\tilde{T}_{\max} =: \begin{cases} T_{\max} - \tau, & \text{if } T_{\max} < \infty, \\ \infty, & \text{if } T_{\max} = \infty. \end{cases}$

*Proof.* By means of  $u(x, t) \leq K_0$ , the second equation of the system (1.5) becomes

$$v_t \leq d_2 \Delta v - \chi \nabla(v \nabla u) + v(1 - \gamma v). \quad (2.6)$$

Integrating this equation over  $\Omega$ , it follows that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v \leq \int_{\Omega} v - \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^2. \quad (2.7)$$

Then applying the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we have  $\gamma \int_{\Omega} v^2 \geq \frac{\gamma}{|\Omega|} (\int_{\Omega} v)^2$  which implies

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v \leq \int_{\Omega} v - \frac{\gamma}{|\Omega|} (\int_{\Omega} v)^2. \quad (2.8)$$

It is obvious that  $v(\cdot, x)$  satisfies (2.4) by the ODE methods. Then integrating (2.7) over  $(t, t + \tau)$  and using (2.4), we can obtain (2.5).  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $(u, v)$  be the solution of the system (1.5), then there exist two positive constants  $C_3$  and  $C_4$  independent of  $t$  such that*

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \leq C_3 \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}) \quad (2.9)$$

and

$$\int_t^{t+\tau} \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 \leq C_4 \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, \widetilde{T}_{\max}), \quad (2.10)$$

where  $\tau$  and  $\widetilde{T}_{\max}$  are defined by Lemma 2.4.

*Proof.* We multiply the first equation of the system (1.5) by  $-\Delta u$ , and integrate the result by parts to have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + d_1 \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 &= \lambda \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 - 2a \int_{\Omega} u |\nabla u|^2 + q \int_{\Omega} \frac{uv}{1+bu+cv} \Delta u \\ &\leq \lambda \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \int_{\Omega} \frac{qK_0}{1+bK_0} v |\Delta u| \\ &\leq \lambda \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{q^2 K_0^2}{2d_1(1+bK_0)^2} \int_{\Omega} v^2 + \frac{d_1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + d_1 \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 \leq 2\lambda \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + A \int_{\Omega} v^2, \quad (2.11)$$

where  $A = \frac{q^2 K_0^2}{d_1(1+bK_0)^2}$ . Multiplying (2.7) by  $\frac{A}{\gamma}$  and adding the result to (2.11), which yields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v \right) + d_1 \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 \leq 2\lambda \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v. \quad (2.12)$$

Adding  $\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v$  to the both sides of this equation, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v \right) + \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v \right) + d_1 \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 \\ \leq (2\lambda + 1) \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{2A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v. \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

By the Sobolev interpolation inequality and Lemma 2.2, we have for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a constant  $m^* =: C_{\varepsilon} K_0^2 |\Omega|$  that

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \leq \varepsilon \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 + C_{\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \leq \varepsilon \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 + m^*, \quad (2.14)$$

which updates (2.13) to

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v \right) + \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v \right) \leq \frac{2A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v + (2\lambda + 1)m^*. \quad (2.15)$$

Let  $y(t) =: \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{A}{\gamma} \int_{\Omega} v$ , we obtain that

$$y'(t) + y(t) \leq \frac{2A}{\gamma} M + (2\lambda + 1)m^* =: m^{**} \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}). \quad (2.16)$$

By the Gronwall inequality, there exists  $T > 0$  such that  $t > T$ , we have  $y(t) \leq y(T) + m^{**}(T_{\max} - T) =: M^*$ . Hence,  $\|\nabla u\|_{L^2} = \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} < (M^*)^{\frac{1}{2}} = C_3$ . On the other hand, by integrating (2.13) over  $(t, t + \tau)$  and further calculating, we have  $\int_t^{t+\tau} \int_{\Omega} |\Delta u|^2 \leq \frac{1}{d_1} [(2\lambda + 1)C_3\tau + \frac{2A}{\gamma}M] = C_4$ .  $\square$

### 3. Boundedness of solutions

In this section, we shall use some related estimates derived in the previous section to further show the boundedness and existence of global classical solutions for the system (1.5). Motivated by Jin, Kim and Wang [25], we shall prove the following Gronwall-type inequality

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^2 \leq c_6 \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + c_8,$$

which yields the uniform-in-time boundedness of  $\|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}$ . Based on the parabolic regularity, we can get  $\|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^\infty}$  is uniformly bounded, which along with Lemma 2.1 extends a local solution to a global one.

**Lemma 3.1** ( $L^2$ -estimate). *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with smooth boundary. If  $(u, v)$  is a solution of the system (1.5), then there exists a constant  $C_5 > 0$  such that*

$$\|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2} \leq C_5 \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}). \quad (3.1)$$

*Proof.* Multiplying the inequality (2.6) by  $v$  and integrating the results over  $\Omega$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^2 + d_2 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^3 \leq \chi \int_{\Omega} v \nabla u \nabla v + \int_{\Omega} v^2. \quad (3.2)$$

And applying the Hölder inequality and Young's inequality, we have

$$\chi \int_{\Omega} v \nabla u \nabla v \leq \frac{\chi^2}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} (v \nabla u)^2 + \frac{d_2}{2} \int_{\Omega} (\nabla v)^2$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} v^2 \leq \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{\Omega} v^3 + \frac{16}{27\gamma^2} |\Omega|.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^2 + d_2 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^3 &\leq \frac{\chi^2}{d_2} \int_{\Omega} |v|^2 |\nabla u|^2 + c_1 \\ &\leq \frac{\chi^2}{d_2} \left( \int_{\Omega} |v|^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + c_1, \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

where  $c_1 = \frac{32}{27\gamma^2} |\Omega|$ . According to Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, we can get

$$\left( \int_{\Omega} |v|^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \|v\|_{L^4}^2 \leq c_2 (\|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \|v\|_{L^2} + \|v\|_{L^2}^2), \quad (3.4)$$

$$\left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \|\nabla u\|_{L^4}^2 \leq c_3 (\|\Delta u\|_{L^2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^2). \quad (3.5)$$

Using the fact  $\|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \leq c_4$  in Lemma 2.5, we derive from

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^4}^2 \leq c_5 (\|\Delta u\|_{L^2} + 1), \quad \text{where } c_5 := c_3(c_4 + c_4^2). \quad (3.6)$$

Substituting (3.4) and (3.5) into (3.3) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^2 + d_2 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^3 &\leq \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} (\|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \|v\|_{L^2} + \|v\|_{L^2}^2) (\|\Delta u\|_{L^2} + 1) + c_1 \\ &= \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \|v\|_{L^2} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2} + \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \|v\|_{L^2} \\ &\quad + \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2} + \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + c_1 \\ &=: I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &= \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \|v\|_{L^2} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{d_2}{2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{(\chi^2 c_2 c_5)^2}{2d_2^3} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2, \\ I_2 &= \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \|v\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{d_2}{2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{(\chi^2 c_2 c_5)^2}{2d_2^3} \|v\|_{L^2}^2, \\ I_3 &= \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{(\chi^2 c_2 c_5)^2}{2d_2^3} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{d_2}{2} \|v\|_{L^2}^2, \\ I_4 &= \frac{\chi^2 c_2 c_5}{d_2} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + c_1, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4 \leq d_2 \|\nabla v\|_{L^2}^2 + c_6 \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + c_7 \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + c_1,$$

where  $c_6 = \frac{(\chi^2 c_2 c_5)^2}{d_2^3}$ ,  $c_7 = \frac{(\chi^2 c_2 c_5 + d_2^2)^2}{2d_2^3}$ . It follows that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^3 \leq c_6 \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + c_7 \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + c_1. \quad (3.7)$$

Furthermore, we can get the following estimate of the second term to the right of the inequality

$$c_7 \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \leq c_7 \left( \int_{\Omega} v^3 \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} |\Omega|^{\frac{1}{3}} \leq \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^3 + \frac{4c_7^3}{27\gamma^2} |\Omega|.$$

Finally, letting  $c_8 =: \frac{4c_7^3}{27\gamma^2} |\Omega| + c_1$ , one has from (3.7) that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^2 \leq c_6 \|v\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + c_8 \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}).$$

Noting (2.5) and (2.10), the rest of this proof is completed by using the same proof method as [25, Theorem 3.1].  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2** ( $L^\infty$ -estimate). *Suppose that the conditions in Lemma 3.1 hold, then the solution of the system (1.5) satisfies*

$$\|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^\infty} \leq C_6 \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}), \quad (3.8)$$

where the constant  $C_6 > 0$  independent of  $t$ .



*Proof.* Using  $v^{p-1}$  with  $p \geq 2$  as a test function for the equation (2.6) and integrating the results over  $\Omega$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{p} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^p + d_2(p-1) \int_{\Omega} v^{p-2} |\nabla v|^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^{p+1} \leq \chi(p-1) \int_{\Omega} v^{p-1} |\nabla u| |\nabla v| + \int_{\Omega} v^p.$$

Adding  $\int_{\Omega} v^p$  to both sides of the above equation and using the Hölder inequality and Young’s inequality, we end up with

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{p} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^p + d_2(p-1) \int_{\Omega} v^{p-2} |\nabla v|^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^{p+1} + \int_{\Omega} v^p \\ & \leq \chi(p-1) \int_{\Omega} v^{p-1} |\nabla u| |\nabla v| + 2 \int_{\Omega} v^p \\ & \leq \frac{\chi^2(p-1)}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} v^p |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{d_2(p-1)}{2} \int_{\Omega} v^{p-2} |\nabla v|^2 + 2 \int_{\Omega} v^p, \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{p} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^p + \frac{d_2(p-1)}{2} \int_{\Omega} v^{p-2} |\nabla v|^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^{p+1} + \int_{\Omega} v^p \\ & \leq \frac{\chi^2(p-1)}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} v^p |\nabla u|^2 + 2 \int_{\Omega} v^p \\ & \leq \frac{\chi^2(p-1)}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} v^p |\nabla u|^2 + \gamma \int_{\Omega} v^{p+1} + \frac{2}{p+1} \left( \frac{2p}{(p+1)\gamma} \right)^p |\Omega|. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying the above inequality by  $p$  and integrating the results over  $\Omega$ , we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^p + \frac{p(p-1)d_2}{2} \int_{\Omega} v^{p-2} |\nabla v|^2 + p \int_{\Omega} v^p \leq \frac{\chi^2 p(p-1)}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} v^p |\nabla u|^2 + pc_9, \tag{3.9}$$

where  $c_9 = \frac{2}{p+1} \left( \frac{2p}{(p+1)\gamma} \right)^p |\Omega|$ . By means of

$$\frac{p(p-1)d_2}{2} \int_{\Omega} v^{p-2} |\nabla v|^2 = \frac{2(p-1)d_2}{p} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v^{\frac{p}{2}}|^2,$$

the inequality (3.9) becomes

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^p + \frac{2(p-1)d_2}{p} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v^{\frac{p}{2}}|^2 + p \int_{\Omega} v^p \leq \frac{\chi^2 p(p-1)}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} v^p |\nabla u|^2 + pc_9. \tag{3.10}$$

Noting the fact  $\|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2} < C_5$  and  $\|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^4} < c_{10}$  in Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 2.3, then one has

$$\frac{\chi^2 p(p-1)}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} v^p |\nabla u|^2 \leq \frac{\chi^2 p(p-1)}{2d_2} \left( \int_{\Omega} v^{2p} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \frac{c_{10}^2 \chi^2 p(p-1)}{2d_2} \|v^{\frac{p}{2}}\|_{L^4}^2.$$

Owing to Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, we have

$$\|v^{\frac{p}{2}}\|_{L^4}^2 \leq c_{11} \left( \|\nabla v^{\frac{p}{2}}\|_{L^2}^{2(1-\frac{1}{p})} \|v^{\frac{p}{2}}\|_{L^{\frac{4}{p}}}^{\frac{2}{p}} + \|v^{\frac{p}{2}}\|_{L^{\frac{4}{p}}}^2 \right)$$

$$= c_{11}(\|\nabla v^{\frac{p}{2}}\|_{L^2}^{2(1-\frac{1}{p})}\|v\|_{L^2} + \|v\|_{L^2}^p).$$

Define  $c_{12} = \frac{c_{10}^2 c_{11} \chi^2 p(p-1)}{2d_2}$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\chi^2 p(p-1)}{2d_2} \int_{\Omega} v^p |\nabla u|^2 &\leq c_{12} C_5 \|\nabla v^{\frac{p}{2}}\|_{L^2}^{2(1-\frac{1}{p})} + c_{12} C_5^p \\ &\leq \frac{2(p-1)d_2}{p} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v^{\frac{p}{2}}|^2 + \frac{2d_2}{p} \left(\frac{c_{12} C_5}{2d_2}\right)^p + c_{12} C_5^p, \end{aligned}$$

which together with (3.10) gives

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} v^p + p \int_{\Omega} v^p \leq c_{13} \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}), \quad (3.11)$$

where

$$c_{13} = \frac{2d_2}{p} \left(\frac{c_{12} C_5}{2d_2}\right)^p + c_{12} C_5^p + p c_9.$$

Through Gronwall's inequality and (3.11), we can derive

$$\|v(\cdot, t)\|_{L^p}^p \leq e^{-pt} \|v_0\|_{L^p}^p + \frac{c_{13}}{p} (1 - e^{-pt}) \leq \|v_0\|_{L^p}^p + \frac{c_{13}}{p} \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, T_{\max}). \quad (3.12)$$

Then choosing  $p = 4$  in (3.12) and using Lemma 2.3, we can find a constant  $c_{14}$  independent of  $p$  such that  $\|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^\infty} < c_{14}$ . Then applying Moser iteration procedure (cf. [22]), one has (3.8). This completes the proof.  $\square$

On account of Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 2.3, we can get the global boundedness of solutions to (1.5) by the Moser iteration procedure (cf. [19]). Next, we will show the following results on the global existence of solutions.

**Lemma 3.3** (global existence). *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with smooth boundary. Assume  $(u_0, v_0) \in [W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)]^2$  with  $u_0, v_0 \geq 0 (\neq 0)$ , then the system (1.5) has a unique global classical solution*

$$(u, v) \in [C(\bar{\Omega} \times [0, \infty)) \cap C^{2,1}(\bar{\Omega} \times (0, \infty))]^2$$

satisfying (1.6).

*Proof.* From Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 2.3, which together with the local existence results in Lemma 2.1 completes the proof of this Lemma.  $\square$

#### 4. Proof of Theorem 1.2

We are now in the position to derive the global stability of  $E^* = (u^*, v^*)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(u(x, t), v(x, t))$  be any solution of the system (1.5), we construct the following Lyapunov function

$$W^*(u(x, t), v(x, t)) = \frac{1}{q} \int_{\Omega} \left( u - u^* - u^* \ln \frac{u}{u^*} \right) + d \int_{\Omega} \left( v - v^* - v^* \ln \frac{v}{v^*} \right).$$

It is clear from the fact  $W^*(\omega) = 0$  if  $\omega = (u^*, v^*)$  and  $W^*(\omega) > 0$  for all  $\omega \neq (u^*, v^*)$ . That is,  $W^*(\omega)$  is a positive definite function. Furthermore, from definition of  $W^*$  and results of Theorem 1.1, we have  $W^*(\omega) \leq C_7$  for a constant  $C_7 > 0$  independent of  $t > 0$  (see [13, 21]). Next, we take the derivative of  $W^*$  with regard to  $t$  along the trajectory of the system (1.5) and arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dW^*}{dt} &= \frac{d_1}{q} \int_{\Omega} \left(1 - \frac{u^*}{u}\right) \Delta u + \frac{1}{q} \int_{\Omega} (u - u^*) \left(\lambda - au - \frac{qv}{1 + bu + cv}\right) \\ &\quad + d \int_{\Omega} \left(1 - \frac{v^*}{v}\right) (d_2 \Delta v - \chi \nabla(v \nabla u)) + d \int_{\Omega} (v - v^*) \left(1 - \frac{ev}{u + d}\right) \\ &=: I_{21} + I_{22}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} I_{21} &= \frac{d_1}{q} \int_{\Omega} \left(1 - \frac{u^*}{u}\right) \Delta u + d \int_{\Omega} \left(1 - \frac{v^*}{v}\right) (d_2 \Delta v - \chi \nabla(v \nabla u)) \\ &= -\frac{d_1 u^*}{q} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{u^2} - d d_2 v^* \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla v|^2}{v^2} + \chi d v^* \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u| |\nabla v|}{v} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{\chi^2 d v^*}{4 d_2} - \frac{d_1 u^*}{q K_0^2}\right) \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} I_{22} &= \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{q} (u - u^*) \left( au^* + \frac{qv^*}{1 + bu^* + cv^*} - au - \frac{qv}{1 + bu + cv} \right) \\ &\quad + d(v - v^*) \left(1 - \frac{ev - ev^* + ev^*}{u + d}\right) \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{bv^*}{(1 + bu^* + cv^*)(1 + bu + cv)} - \frac{a}{q} \right] (u - u^*)^2 \\ &\quad + \left[ \frac{d}{u + d} - \frac{1 + bu^*}{(1 + bu^* + cv^*)(1 + bu + cv)} \right] (u - u^*)(v - v^*) - \frac{ed}{u + d} (v - v^*)^2 \\ &= - \int_{\Omega} [k(u, v)(u - u^*)^2 + 2l(u, v)(u - u^*)(v - v^*) + m(u, v)(v - v^*)^2], \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} k(u, v) &= \frac{a}{q} - \frac{bv^*}{(1 + bu^* + cv^*)(1 + bu + cv)}, \\ l(u, v) &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1 + bu^*}{(1 + bu^* + cv^*)(1 + bu + cv)} - \frac{d}{u + d} \right], \\ m(u, v) &= \frac{ed}{u + d}. \end{aligned}$$

The equation (4.1) can be further written as

$$I_{22} = - \int_{\Omega} \left\{ (u - u^*, v - v^*) \begin{pmatrix} k(u, v) & l(u, v) \\ l(u, v) & m(u, v) \end{pmatrix} (u - u^*, v - v^*)^T \right\}. \quad (4.2)$$

It is obvious that  $I_{22} < 0$  if and only if the matrix in the integrand of (4.2) is positive definite, which is equivalent to  $k(u, v) > 0$  and  $\rho(u, v) = k(u, v)m(u, v) - l^2(u, v) > 0$ , where

$$\rho(u, v) = \frac{ade}{q(u+d)} - \frac{bdev^*}{(u+d)(1+bu^*+cv^*)(1+bu+cv)} - \frac{(1+bu^*)^2}{4(1+bu^*+cv^*)^2(1+bu+cv)^2} - \frac{d^2}{4(u+d)^2} + \frac{d(1+bu^*)}{2(u+d)(1+bu^*+cv^*)(1+bu+cv)}.$$

By calculation and the condition, we can get

$$k(u, v) > \frac{a}{q} - \frac{bv^*}{1+bu^*+cv^*} > \frac{a}{q} - \frac{b}{c} = \frac{1}{qc}(ac - qb);$$

$$\rho(u, v) > \frac{ade}{q(K_0+d)} - \frac{bdev^*}{(u+d)(1+bu^*+cv^*)} - \frac{(1+bu^*)^2}{4(1+bu^*+cv^*)^2} - \frac{d^2}{4(u+d)^2}$$

$$> \frac{ade}{q(K_0+d)} - \frac{bdev^*}{dcv^*} - 1 = \frac{1}{qc(K_0+d)}[acde - q(be+c)(K_0+d)],$$

then  $I_{21} < 0$  can be determined by the first fraction in (1.8) and we can see that  $k(u, v) > 0$  and  $\rho(u, v) > 0$  from the second fraction in (1.8). Here it is clearly that the coexistence state  $(u^*, v^*)$  is globally asymptotically stable by the LaSalle's invariant principle and there exists a  $t_0 > 0$  so that for all  $t > t_0$  the following inequality holds:

$$\frac{1}{q} \int_{\Omega} (u - u^* - u^* \ln \frac{u}{u^*}) + d \int_{\Omega} (v - v^* - v^* \ln \frac{v}{v^*}) \leq \frac{1}{qu^*} \int_{\Omega} (u - u^*)^2 + \frac{d}{v^*} \int_{\Omega} (v - v^*)^2,$$

for the specific procedures of the above equation, we can refer to the proof of [13, Lemma 4.3] and [21, Lemma 4.5] which further yields the exponential decay rate in  $L^\infty$ -norm from (1.9).  $\square$

**Remark 1.** Theorem 1.2 discusses the global stability under the assumption that  $\chi > 0$ . If  $\chi \leq 0$ , the lighter condition  $q < \frac{acde}{(K_0+d)(be+c)}$  is needed to satisfy the global stability. That's to say, if there is no prey-taxis phenomenon ( $\chi = 0$ ) or the prey can gather to form a group that can resist foreign enemies ( $\chi < 0$ ), the co-existence steady state is globally asymptotically stable when the competition between predators and preys is weak. Once prey-taxis phenomenon occurs ( $\chi > 0$ ), the above state may require weaker competitiveness to maintain its global stability.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare there is no conflicts of interest.

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