

sDiv Workshop
***“Next generation biodiversity manipulation:
technical requirements for an Ecotron platform”***
6 June 2013
Workshop Summary

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Summary

Despite the richness of existing experimental platforms at iDiv, a facility to explore the relationships between orthogonal (horizontal x vertical) diversity as well as above- and belowground compartments on the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems is lacking. The Ecotron workshop was intended to facilitate the construction of a new Ecotron platform. We brought experienced Ecotron developers together to discuss the possibilities, limitations and requirements of existing Ecotron platforms. This information will aid the development of a prototype chamber as template for the Ecotron platform at iDiv.

- Focal areas of discussion

Technical questions were discussed including the topics: lamps, water supply, root washing facility, temperature & humidity control, ingrowth cores, high-throughput measurements, assessments of population dynamics, crane system

- Brief summary of presentations

Presentations were given by Jaques Roy (CNRS Centre d'Ecologie, Montpellier, France), Hans de Kroon (Experimental Plant Ecology, Nijmegen), Jean Charles Munch (TU Munich), and Alexandru Milcu (Imperial College London, Ecotron) on the design and technical equipment/challenges of other Ecotron facilities.

- Outputs

List of important equipment, experiences of existing Ecotrons, plan to have a second workshop to do more detailed planning once decisions such as location etc. have been made.

- List of participants list

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Auge	Harald	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ	http://www.ufz.de/index.php?de=1153
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Meldau	Stefan	Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology Jena	http://www.ice.mpg.de/ext/hopa.html?pers=stme2338
Milcu	Alexandru	CNRS - Centre national de la recherche scientifique	http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/people/a.milcu
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