

sDiv working group meeting summary

“ sToichNutNet - Linking ecological stoichiometry with environment-diversity-productivity relationships in grasslands”

Feedback of applicants

During the second StoichNutNet workshop, we continued working on well-defined projects, started during our first workshop in January 2016. For that reason, we predominantly worked in small groups, and scheduled only three main presentations.

In the first introductory presentation, Elizabeth Borer gave a short summary about the outcome of workshop one and laid out the aims for the second one. As an addition to that, participants gave a short status update on their respective projects and personal research goals for the meeting. The second presentation by Eric Lind, gave an update about data availability. In the framework of the iDiv seminar Jennifer Firn gave an impressive talk with the title “From grasslands to tropical forests: understanding the implications of pervasive environmental change on plant species, plant communities and local people”.

Overall, we kept the schedule during the four days workshop very flexible—we worked a lot in small groups for brainstorming and data analysis, and we met to have group discussions, as needed. This turned out to be a very productive strategy that received extremely positive post-meeting reviews from all participants. We enjoyed the working atmosphere provided at iDiv. At the end of the workshop, eight paper proposals were finished, and we will continue working on these during the next 6 months (until our next meeting). We are making progress on these and expect that some of these will be complete and submitted to a journal before our June 2017 meeting.

The project topics are listed below:

- Predicting intra- and inter-specific variability in foliar N, P, and N:P
- Consumer body size influences stoichiometric producer-consumer feedbacks in eutrophic systems.
- Plant and soil N:P as predictor for biomass response to fertiliser; thresholds and mismatches
- Review: Fifteen years of ecological stoichiometry: adrift with no sight of land
- Finding the right tools for the job: leaf traits that predict a response to eutrophication and reduction in vertebrate pressure
- Herbivory and eutrophication modulate grassland plant nutrient responses across a global climatic gradient
- Global controls on foliar sodium in grassland plants: taxonomic patterns, geographic variation, and response to environmental manipulation
- Log response ratios of plant nutrient concentrations and stocks to different nutrient treatments

Participant list

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