

## MINUTES

### Workshop „Tree diversity experiments: Status, results, joint analyses“

24 November 2009, Ghent, Belgium

Kris Verheyen & Michael Scherer-Lorenzen

The overview of the final program can be found in Appendix I. The presentations can be downloaded from <http://users.ugent.be/~khverhey/>. All tree diversity experiments worldwide were represented: a great success!. The meeting was attended by 24 persons (Appendix II).

These minutes will focus on the outcome of the general discussion at the end of the meeting. The discussion was centered around the following three themes:

#### 1) Scientific activities that can be started any time:

- Informal working group meetings on a specific topics. E.g. workshops to develop common protocols, to develop subsampling procedures, to develop common database structures, ...
- Scientific papers (in decreasing order of relevance at this moment):
  - o Paper giving an overview of the different designs for tree diversity experiments
  - o Meta-analysis of results from observational studies
  - o Paper reporting a meta-analysis on tree establishment success and mortality (e.g. ‘vole effects’) across the different experiments

#### 2) Funding opportunities for TreeDivNet

- ESF Research Networking Programmes (<http://www.esf.org/activities/research-networking-programmes.html>; deadline Oct 2010; success rate <20 %; ). An ESF Research Networking Programme is a networking activity bringing together nationally funded research activities for four to five years, to address a major scientific issue or a science-driven topic of research infrastructure, at the European level with the aim of advancing the frontiers of science. Key objectives include: creating interdisciplinary fora; sharing knowledge and expertise; developing new techniques; training young scientists. Multi-, inter- or trans-disciplinary proposals are encouraged. Proposals with a global dimension which intend to create links to networks of scientists in non-ESF Member Organisation countries are also encouraged. Budget: 105 000 – 130 000 €per year for four or five years.
- Marie Curie Initial Training Networks ([http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/initial-training\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/initial-training_en.html)). The action will be implemented by supporting competitively selected networks of organisations from different countries engaged in research training. The networks will be built on a joint research training programme, responding to well identified training needs in defined scientific areas, with appropriate reference to interdisciplinary and newly emerging supra-disciplinary

- fields. One could, for instance, imagine a group of travelling PhD students that will work in the different experiments
- COST- action ([www.cost.esf.org](http://www.cost.esf.org); 2 application deadlines per year; 4 year networking projects with a total budget of ~100 000€)
  - NCEAS Working Group (<http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/>) to synthesise data
  - ...

### 3) Visibility of TreeDivNet

- Development of the website (note: *the Belgian Biodiversity Platform [www.biodiversity.be] is willing to host and develop this site*)
- Try to get an article about the TreeDivNet-experiments in high impact journals, such as Science, Nature, National Geographic, ... (note: *Emma Marris, a science writer with Nature has been contacted but no reaction so far*)
- Try to organize a TreeDivNet-session on an international conference, e.g. GFOE 2010 in Vienna, ESA 2011, BES, ...
- ...

To summarize, the following **follow-up actions** are needed:

- 1) Somebody takes initiative to organise a workshop sometime in 2010 (see suggestions above);
- 2) Somebody takes initiative to write a first paper (see suggestions above);
- 3) Somebody takes the lead to apply for network funding. ESF seems most promising
- 4) Somebody takes the initiative to organise a session on an international conference (e.g. GFOE 2010 conference in Vienna)
- 5) Kris will take initiative to develop website linked to Belgian Biodiversity Platform. Start sometime April-May 2010
- 6) Michael will keep on contacting journals to 'sell' our story

Appendix I: final program

Appendix II: meeting attendants

## Appendix I: program

Day	Time	Person	Item	Remarks
Monday, 23. November	All day	All	Travel to Ghent	
Tuesday, 24. November	10:00- 10:15	Kris Verheyen & Michael Scherer-Lorenzen	Welcome and general introduction	
	10:15- 10:45	Seth Bigelow	The La Selva Tree Diversity Experiments Costa Rica: Short overview and key results	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	10:45- 11:15	Michael Scherer-Lorenzen (on behalf of Catherine Potvin)	The Sardinilla Experiment Panama: Short overview and key results	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	11:15- 11:45	Simon Morath (on behalf of Julia Koricheva)	The Satakunta Experiment Finland: Short overview and key results	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	11:45- 12:15	Jake Snaddon (on behalf of Andy Hector)	The Sabah Experiment Borneo: Short overview and key results	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	12:15- 12:45	Detlef Schulze	The BIOTREE Experiment Germany: Short overview and key results	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	12:45- 13:45	All	Lunch	
	13:45- 14:15	Harald Auge	The Kreinitz Experiment: Short overview and key results	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	14:15- 14:45	Alex Erfmeier (on behalf of Helge Bruelheide)	Biodiversity-Ecosystem Functioning Experiment China: Short overview	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	14:45- 15.15	Hervé Jactel	The ORPHEE Experiment France: Short overview	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	15:15- 15:45	Kris Verheyen & FORBIO-team	The FORBIO experiment: Short overview	20 +10 min. presentation/discussion
	15:45- 16.15	Connie Garbe	Canada experiment	20+10 min presentation/discussion
	16.15- 16:45	All	Coffee Break	
	16:45- 18:00	All	Discussion block	
	> 19:00	All	Dinner at 'Het Pakhuis'	

## Appendix II: Participant list

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>
<i>Speakers</i>		
Auge, Harald	UFZ, Halle, GE	harald.auge@ufz.de
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<i>Participants</i>		
Baeten, Lander	Ghent University, Ghent, BE	
Bauhus, Jürgen	Freiburg Uni, Freiburg, GE	
Branquart, Etienne	Belgian Biodiversity Platform, Gembloux, BE	
Carnol, Monique	Univ. de Liège, Liège, BE	
Castagneyrol, Bastien	INRA, Bordeaux, FR	
De Keersmaeker, Luc	INBO, Geraardsbergen, BE	
De Schrijver, An	Ghent University, Ghent, BE	
Forrester, David	Freiburg Uni, Freiburg, GE	
He, Jin-Sheng	Peking University, Peking, CN	
Malchair, Sandrine	Univ. de Liège, Liège, BE	
Muys, Bart	Catholic University of Leuven, Leuven, BE	
Ponette, Quentin	Univ. Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-La-Neuve, BE	
Staelens, Jeroen	Ghent University, Ghent, BE	
Van Heuckelom, Marc	BELSPO, Brussels, BE	