

Is the assembly of canopy-recruit interactions mediated by plant functional traits?

Plant community assembly depends on the recruitment of the species. Some studies show that assembly is highly pairwise specific between canopies and recruits, but the mechanisms behind remain poorly understood. Some authors have proposed plant traits as drivers of these interactions, but determining what traits are functionally meaningful is required. Using a trait-based approach we determined what traits of canopy and recruits are functionally important for recruitment, and whether community assembly is mediated by the complementarity between those traits.

Our results showed that LMA, leaf habit, branch density and seed dispersal mechanisms of canopy plants and growing form and seed mass of recruits influenced significantly the recruitment under vegetation cover. However, we found only circumstantial evidence of canopy-recruit trait complementarity affecting recruitment. Therefore, we suggest that plant-community assembly is mainly driven by the lonely action of these functional traits, but not by the complementary between them.



Festival of Ecology

This certificate confirms that:

Antonio J. Perea

Attended the above British Ecological Society event and presented a talk entitled
Is the assembly of canopy-recruit interactions mediated by plant functional traits?

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Amy Everard

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'AEverard' with a stylized flourish underneath.

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