The new database of multi-scale plant diversity of Palaearctic grasslands (GrassPlot): invitation to contribute and opportunities for analyses

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Introduction

Understanding patterns and drivers of phytodiversity as well as ecological scaling laws and assembly rules constitute core interests both of vegetation ecologists and macroecologists. To enhance our understanding of these issues, we compiled the new “Database of Scale-Dependent Phytodiversity Patterns in Palaearctic Grasslands” (GrassPlot; GIVD ID EU-00-003) within the framework of the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG). GrassPlot contains high-quality plot observations (relevés) of eight standard grain sizes (0.0001; 0.001 … 1000 m²) as well as nested-plot series with at least four different grain sizes. The scope of GrassPlot are the grasslands as well as other herb- or cryptogam-dominated terrestrial and semi-terrestrial vegetation types from the whole Palaearctic biogeographic realm (Europe, North Africa, West, Central and North Asia). The plot observations in GrassPlot in nearly 50% of all cases also contain data on terricolous bryophytes and lichens in addition to vascular plants, as well as extensive environmental data determined in the field.

Current content (14 April 2017)

- 82 datasets
- 107 data owners
- 28 countries
- 26,382 plots, among them 12,278 with data also for non-vascular plants
- 3,175 0.01-m² plots, 6,971 1-m² plots, 4,460 10- (or 9-) m² plots, 2,868 100-m² plots
- 1,132 nested-plot series (with at least 4 grain sizes)

Vegetation types among the plots

Festuco-Brometea (39.7%), Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (11.6%), Ammophyletea (9.5%), Helichryso-Crucianelletea (5.7%), Juncoetea maritimi (5.3%), Koelerio-Corynephoretea (3.7%), Seda-Scleranthetea (2.3%), Scheuchzerio-Caricetea (2.2%), Cleistogenetea squarrosoae (1.6%), Juncetea trifidi (1.6%), Elino-Seslerietea (1.5%), other classes (6.9%), currently unclassified (8.9%)

More information...