

Project proposals Master thesis



The effect of soil- and plant history on invertebrate predation across a gradient of plant species richness

Background

Plant-soil feedback (PSF) is defined as a process where plants alter the soil conditions they grow in, which in turn affects their future performance. Plant community performance changes with plant species richness and this relationship becomes stronger over time. Therefore the question arises if this increase in the biodiversity-ecosystem function relationship over time is caused by plant community age or plant-soil history.

Research question

In an experimental setup, we manipulate soil and plant history to distinguish plant community age effects from soil-feedback effects on ecosystem processes. The aim of the thesis is to answer the question how plant and soil history affect invertebrate predation across a gradient of plant species richness.

Methods

- Field work at the Jena Experiment (May and August 2018)
- www.the-jena-experiment.de
- Data analyses



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