

What Percentage of Plant Species Are Woody?

Woody versus herbaceous is one of the major axes of life history variation in plants. We sought to find the answer to the seemingly simple question: what percentage of plant species in the world are woody? We asked a small group of botanists this question and got an extraordinarily wide variety of answers. In addition to tallying up the species numbers, we thought it would be interesting to survey biology-types to see if a general consensus answer exists. Please take a couple of seconds to fill out our questionnaire. Thanks! Answer coming out soon in a journal near you.

* Required

What percentage of the world's vascular plant species are woody? *

For simplicity, we define woody plants as those which have a perennial aboveground stem (examples below if you want them). The answer can either be a point estimate or a range.

How would you rate your familiarity with plants?

- ☐ Very Familiar
- ☐ Familiar
- ☐ Somewhat Familiar
- ☐ What's a Plant?

How much formal training have you received in botany?

- ☐ Postgraduate degree in botany or a related field
- ☐ Partially complete postgraduate degree in botany or a related field
- ☐ Undergraduate degree in botany or a related field
- ☐ Some botany courses at either an undergraduate or postgraduate level
- ☐ No formal training in botany

In what country did you receive your biology/botany training?

Some details as to what we are considering woody:

By our definition pines, maples, palms, bamboos, tree ferns, and lianas are woody; corn, bananas, tulips, and tomatoes

are not.

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