Tanya **Strydom**

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, School of Biosciences, University of Sheffield

💬 she/they | ✉ t.strydom@sheffield.ac.uk | 🏠 tanyadoesscience.com | TanyaS08 |

0000-0001-6067-1349 | TanyaS08

💡 Research Interests

computational ecology; functional traits; ecological networks; species interactions; FAIR and open science

💼 Professional Experience

Postdoctoral Researcher   *Sheffield, UK*

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD   *2024 - Present*

- Mentor: A.P. Beckerman, PhD
- Part of the Community And Structural Collapse During Mass Extinctions (CASCaDE) research team

🎓 Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences   *Montréal, Canada*

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL   *2020-24*

- Advisor: T. Poisot, PhD
- Thesis: Tools 'O the Times: Understanding the common properties of species interaction networks across space

Master of Science in Ecology and Biodiversity   *Stockholm, Sweden*

STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET   *2018-20*

- Advisor: K. Hylander, PhD
- Thesis: Declines and increases in northern and southern plant populations after changes in the microclimate

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Plant Sciences   *Pretoria, South Africa*

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA   *2017*

- Advisor: P.C. le Roux, PhD
- Thesis: Bush encroachment in South Africa's montane grasslands: the impact of *Leucosidea sericea* on microclimate and vegetation

Bachelor of Science in Ecology   *Pretoria, South Africa*

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA   *2014-16*

🖥 Fellowships and Internships

BIOS² Fellow

COMPUTATIONAL BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE AND SERVICES (BIOS²) TRAINING PROGRAM   *2021-23*

Living Data Internship

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION, BIRDS CANADA   *2022*

- Data archiving for the Piping Plovers conservation pjoject

UiB Internship

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN   *2020*

- Website development for the Plants Functional Courses website. This included content creation as well as some front end development

3rd year Undergraduate Mentorship Program

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA   *2016*

- Worked as an assistant within the M. Robertson lab. This included the sorting and identification of pitfall trap samples as well as extracting information from databases

⚜ Funding and Awards ─────────────────────────

Robert May Prize

AWARDED BY: BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY   *2022*

Qualified for the UP Postgraduate Masters Research Bursary

AWARDED BY: UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA   *2018*

Awarded the 3rd year Undergraduate Mentorship Bursary

AWARDED BY: UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA   *2016*

👥 Working Groups and International Collaboration ─────────

Black Holes and Revelations: Identifying Priority Sampling Locations for Local Food Webs in Canada

PIs: G. DANSEREAU, F. BANVILLE, M. CATCHEN, AND T. STRYDOM   *2022*

Merging Statistical Theory and Analyses at the Interface of Microbial and 'Macrobial' Ecology

PIs: M. LIEBOLD, P. PERES-NETO, AND E. THEBAULT   *2022*

Canadian metaweb construction working group

PIs: T. POISOT AND L.J. POLLOCK   *2021*

Network prediction synthesis working group

PIs: T. POISOT AND L.J. POLLOCK   *2020*

Plant Functional Trait Course 5 in Peru

PIs: V. VANDVIK AND B.J. ENQUIST   *2020*

📄 Publications ─────────────────────────

* Indicates co-lead author

PUBLICATIONS

1. Halbritter, A. H., Vandvik, V., Cotner, S., Farfan-Rios, W., Maitner, B. S., Michaletz, S. T., Menor, I. O., Telford, R. J., Ccahuana, A., Cruz, R., Bravo, J. S., Andrade, P. E. S., Bustamante, L. L. V., Castorena, M., Chacon-Labella, J., Christiansen, C. T., Duran, S. M., Egelkraut, D. D., Gya, R., … Enquist, B. J. (2024). Plant trait and vegetation data along a 1314 m elevation gradient with fire history in Puna grasslands, Perú. *Scientific Data*, *11*(225). `https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-024-02980-3`
2. Christiansen, D. M., **Strydom, T.**, Greiser, C., McClory, R., Ehrlén, J., & Hylander, K. (2023). Effects of past and present microclimates on northern and southern plant species in a managed forest landscape. *Journal of Vegetation Science*. `https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13197`
3. Maitner, B. S., Halbritter, A. H., Telford, R. J., **Strydom, T.**, Chacón-Labella, J., Henderson, A. N., Lamanna, C., Sloat, L. L., Kerkhoff, A. J., Messier, J., Rasmussen, N. L., Pomati, F., Merz, E., Vandvik, V., & Enquist, B. J. (2023). Bootstrapping outperforms community-weighted approaches for estimating the shapes of phenotypic distributions. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*. `https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.14160`
4. **Strydom, T.**, Bouskila, S., Banville, F., Barros, C., Caron, D., Farrell, M. J., Fortin, M.-J., Hemming, V., Mercier, B., Pollock, L. J., Runghen, R., Dalla Riva, G. V., & Poisot, T. (2023). Graph embedding and transfer learning can help predict potential species interaction networks despite data limitations. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*. `https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.14228`
5. **Strydom, T.**, & Poisot, T. (2023). SpatialBoundaries.jl: Edge detection using spatial wombling. *Ecography*. `https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.06609`
6. Raath-Krüger, M. J., Schöb, C., McGeoch, M. A., Burger, D. A., **Strydom, T.**, & le Roux, P. C. (2022). Long-term spatially-replicated data show no cost to a benefactor species in a facilitative plant-plant interaction. *Oikos*. `https://doi.org/10.1111/oik.09617`
7. **Strydom*, T.**, Bouskila*, S., Banville, F., Barros, C., Caron, D., Farrell, M. J., Fortin, M.-J., Hemming, V., Mercier, B., Pollock, L. J., Runghen, R., Dalla Riva, G. V., & Poisot, T. (2022). Food web reconstruction through phylogenetic transfer of low-rank network representation. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*. `https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13835`

8. Chacón-Labella, J., Boakye, M., Enquist, B. J., Farfan-Rios, W., Gya, R., Halbritter, A. H., Middleton, S. L., von Oppen, J., Pastor-Ploskonka, S., **Strydom, T.**, Vandvik, V., & Geange, S. R. (2021). From a crisis to an opportunity: Eight insights for doing science in the COVID-19 era and beyond. *Ecology and Evolution: Academic Practice in Ecology and Evolution*, *11*(8), 3588–3596. `https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.7026`

9. Geange*, S. R., von Oppen*, J., **Strydom*, T.**, Boakye, M., Gauthier, T.-L. J., Gya, R., Halbritter, A. H., Jessup, L. H., Middleton, S. L., Navarro, J., Pierfederici, M. E., Chacón-Labella, J., Cotner, S., Farfan-Rios, W., Maitner, B. S., Michaletz, S. T., Telford, R. J., Enquist, B. J., & Vandvik, V. (2021). Next-generation field courses: Integrating Open Science and online learning. *Ecology and Evolution: Academic Practice in Ecology and Evolution*, *11*(8), 3577–3587. `https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.7009`

10. **Strydom, T.**, Dalla Riva, G. V., & Poisot, T. (2021). SVD entropy reveals the high complexity of ecological networks. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *9*. `https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.623141`

11. **Strydom*, T.**, Catchen*, M. D., Banville, F., Caron, D., Dansereau, G., Desjardins-Proulx, P., Forero-Muñoz, N. R., Higino, G., Mercier, B., Gonzalez, A., Gravel, D., Pollock, L. J., & Poisot, T. (2021). A roadmap toward predicting species interaction networks (across space and time). *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, *376*(20210063). `https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0063`

12. Kattge, J., Boenisch, G., Diaz, S., Lavorel, S., Prentice, C., Leadley, P., Wirth, C., & the TRY Consortium. (2020). TRY plant trait database–enhanced coverage and open access. *Global Change Biology*, *26*(1), 119–188. `https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.14904`

Preprints

1. Banville, F., **Strydom, T.**, Blyth, P. S. A., Brimacombe, C., Catchen, M., Dansereau, G., Gravel, D., Higino, G., Malpas, T., Mayall, H., Norman, K., & Poisot, T. (2024). Deciphering probabilistic species interaction networks. *Preprint*. `https://doi.org/10.32942/X28G8Z`

2. Higino, G. T., Anujan, K., Boakye, M., Degano, M. E., Forero-Muñoz, N.-R., & **Strydom, T.** (2023). Designing a collective prototype of future (sub)tropical science. *Preprint*. `https://doi.org/10.32942/X2VC86`

💻 Presentations ─────────────────────────────

INVITED TALKS

What's [complexity] got to do with it? — *NetSci 2023*
TANYA STRYDOM — *Jul., 2023*

Making something out of nothing at all: Transfer learning for network prediction — *ML4MS mini-conference*
TANYA STRYDOM — *Apr., 2022*

Taking FAIR and open science to the field: The evolution of the PFTC field course — *Living Norway Colloquium*
TANYA STRYDOM ALONGSIDE AUD H. HALBRITTER, 109 PFTC PARTICIPANTS — *Oct., 2020*

TALKS

Exploring the complexity of ecological networks using SVD entropy — *11th Annual QCBS Symposium*
TANYA STRYDOM, GIULIO V. DALLA RIVA AND TIMOTHÉE POISOT — *Dec., 2020*

SHORT PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

Reconstructing food webs using transfer learning — *CSEE-SCEE Annual Meeting*
TANYA STRYDOM, SALOMÉ BOUSKILA AND TIMOTHÉE POISOT — *Aug., 2021*

Food web reconstruction using transfer learning — *12th Annual QCBS Symposium*
TANYA STRYDOM, SALOMÉ BOUSKILA AND TIMOTHÉE POISOT — *Dec., 2021*

WORKSHOPS AND ORGANISED SESSIONS

Space Oddity: Thinking About Ecological Networks Across Space — *ESA/CSEE Meeting*
FRANCIS BANVILLE, GABRIEL DANSEREAU, **TANYA STRYDOM** — *Aug., 2022*

💬 Community Engagement

Science Communication

Cartoonist

Fortnightly cartoonist for Ecology for the Masses blog

2020 - 2022

Popular Articles

1. von Oppen, J., Gya, R., Geange, S., **Strydom, T.**, Middleton, S., & Maitner, B. S. (2021). Next generation field courses: Enhancing ECR development through open science and online learning. In *Ecology for the Masses*.
2. Cotner, S., Enquist, B. J., Chacon, J., Maitner, B. S., Farfan-Rios, W., Michaletz, S., Garen, J., Gauthier, T.-L. J., Vandvik, V., Gya, R., Halbritter, A. H., Hošková, K., Pierfederici, M. E., Quinteros-Casaverde, N. L., Diaz, E. S., Jessup, L. H., **Strydom, T.**, & von Oppen, J. (2020). International scientists need better support during global emergencies. In *Times Higher Education*.