



# Tanya Strydom

PHD CANDIDATE

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## Research Interests

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

## Education

### Doctor of Philosophy: Biological Sciences

Montréal, Canada

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

2020 - Present

- Advisor: T. Poisot, PhD
- Thesis: Decoding Ecological Networks (in terms of the information from within)

### Master of Science: 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): 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: Ecology

Pretoria, South Africa

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

2014-16

## Fellowships and Internships

### BIOS<sup>2</sup> Fellow

COMPUTATIONAL BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE AND SERVICES (BIOS<sup>2</sup>) TRAINING PROGRAM

2021 - present

### 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

## International Collaboration and Working Groups

### Canadian metaweb construction working group

PIs: T. POISOT (UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL) AND L.J. POLLOCK, (MCGILL UNIVERSITY)

2021

- Leader of one of the sub-projects focused on using machine learning for prediction

### Network prediction synthesis working group

PIs: T. POISOT (UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL) AND L.J. POLLOCK, (MCGILL UNIVERSITY)

2020

- Co-lead author of resulting publication

### Plant Functional Trait Course 5 in Peru

PIs: V. VANDVIK (UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN) AND B.J. ENQUIST, (UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA)

2020

- Plant functional responses to fire

\* Indicates co-lead author

### PUBLICATIONS

- 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>
- Strydom\*, T.**, Catchen\*, M. D., Banville, F., Caron, D., Dansereau, G., Desjardins-Proulx, P., Forero-Muñoz, N. R., Higinio, 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>
- 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>
- Chacón-Labela, 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>
- 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-Labela, 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>
- 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

- 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). Predicting metawebs: Transfer of graph embeddings can help alleviate spatial data deficiencies. *Preprint*. <https://doi.org/10.32942/osf.io/vyzgr>
- Maitner, B. S., Halbritter, A. H., Telford, R. J., **Strydom, T.**, Chacón-Labela, 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. (2021). On estimating the shape and dynamics of phenotypic distributions in ecology and evolution. *Preprint*. <https://doi.org/10.22541/au.162196147.76797968/v1>

# Presentations

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## INVITED TALKS

### Making something out of nothing at all: Transfer learning for network prediction

TANYA STRYDOM

*ML4MS mini-conference*

*Apr., 2022*

### Taking FAIR and open science to the field: The evolution of the PFTC field course

TANYA STRYDOM ALONGSIDE AUD H. HALBRITTER, 109 PFTC PARTICIPANTS

*Living Norway Colloquium*

*Oct., 2020*

## TALKS

### Exploring the complexity of ecological networks using SVD entropy

TANYA STRYDOM, GIULIO V. DALLA RIVA AND TIMOTHÉE POISOT

*11th Annual QCBS Symposium*

*Dec., 2020*

## SHORT PRESENTATIONS

### Reconstructing food webs using transfer learning

TANYA STRYDOM, SALOMÉ BOUSKILA AND TIMOTHÉE POISOT

*CSEE-SCEE Annual Meeting*

*Aug., 2021*

## WORKSHOPS

### Designing a collective prototype of future tropical and subtropical science

GRACIELLE HIGINO, MICKEY BOAKYE, NORMA FORERO, TANYA STRYDOM

*ATBC Annual Meeting*

*Jul., 2021*

# Science Communication & Engagement

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## COMMUNICATION

### Cartoonist

FORTNIGHTLY CARTOONIST FOR ECOLOGY FOR THE MASSES BLOG

*2020 - present*

## POPULAR ARTICLES

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*.

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., Hořková, 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*.

## Academic Service

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### Society for Open, Reliable, and Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

MEMBER

2021 - Present

### Québec Centre for Biodiversity Sciences

STUDENT MEMBER

2020 - Present

### Reviewed Journals

PLANT ECOLOGY, PLoS ONE

## Funding and Awards

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### 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