

Département de sciences biologiques, Université de Montréal

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Research Interests

computational ecology; functional traits; ecological networks; machine learning; FAIR and open science

Education

Doctor of Philosophy: Biological Sciences

Montréal, Canada

2020 - Present

Université de Montréal

· Advisor: T. Poisot, PhD

· Thesis: Machine learning in ecology

Master of Science: Ecology and Biodiversity

Stockholm, Sweden

2018-20

STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET

· 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
- · Graduated cum laude

Bachelor of Science: Ecology

Pretoria, South Africa

University of Pretoria 2014-16

Research Experience

Plant functional trait responses to elevation and fire

V. Vandvik, PhD and B.J. Enquist, PhD

2020

- Attended the 5th Plants Functional Traits Course in Peru co-hosted by the University of Bergen and Arizona University.
- Theory on plant functional traits and their relationships with broader ecological processes.
- · Practical elements include: experimental design, data collection and curation, and report writing.

Plant vital rates along microclimate gradients.

K. Hylander, PhD 2019-20

- Masters degree research project.
- Focused on the variation of plant population vital rates along microclimate gradients and the role of historic climatic conditions.

Plant-pollinator interactions in different microsites

J. EHRLÉN, PHD AND A. TACK, PHD

2019

- A Masters level course research project.
- Independently worked on hypothesis formulation and experimental design.

Changes in plant functional traits at fine-scales

P.C. LE ROUX, PHD

2018

- Collecting and processing plant functional traits on sub-Antarctic Marion Island.
- Research focused on looking at changes in plant functional traits along microclimate gradients.

The impact of an encroaching species on vegetation and microclimate

• Honours degree research project.

P.C. LE ROUX, PHD

2017

· Research focused on the concepts of biotic interactions, ecosystem engineering and habitat modification.

Technical Skills

Statistical Analysis generalized and linear mixed-effect models; mulitvariate analysis; Bayesian analysis; primarily using R

Spatial Analysis spatial analysis in ecology; ArcGIS; Maxent; GBIF

Image Analysis ImageJ; Adobe Photoshop

Phylogenetic Analysis extracting and cleaning samples from GenBank; MEGA

Academic Writing assessed at various levels; peer-reviewed articles; literature reviews; research proposals; reports; popular articles

Oral Communication masters level course; presented in various settings

Peer Review as an assistant (PLoS ONE, 2018); second-round reviewer (Plant Ecology, 2019)

Language Skills English and Afrikaans as a native speaker; conversational in German; basic Swedish and Spanish

Written Work

PEER-REVIEWED

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

UNDER REVIEW

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. (2020). From a crisis to an opportunity: Eight insights for doing science in the covid-19 era and beyond. *Accepted*. https://doi.org/10.22541/au.159569118.87473812

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. (2020). Next-generation field courses: Integrating open science and online learning. *Accepted*.

Raath-Krüger, M. J., Schöb, C., McGeoch, M. A., **Strydom, T.**, & le Roux, P. C. (2020). Long-term spatially-replicated data show no cost to a benefactor species in a facilitative plant-plant interaction. *Submitted*.

POPULAR ARTICLES

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*. https://tinyurl.com/y5ccw9nb

Talks

INVITED TALKS

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

Trondheim, Norway

Oct. 13, 2020

LIVING NORWAY COLLOQUIUM 2020: TOWARDS OPENESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN APPLIED ECOLOGY

- Presented as part of the education and open science workshop
- Presented alongside Aud H. Halbritter

^{• =} should be considered equal lead

Internships

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

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