Oct 1st, 2020

Cover letter

Less is more: facilitation of biodiversity maintenance declines with increasing plant species richness

Special issue: Facilitation and biodiversity-ecosystem functioning research

Facilitation and biodiversity-ecosystem functioning research

Dear Professors Gibson, Bardgett, Rees, and Austin,

The following contribution is a submission to the special issue lead by Sasha Wright entitled ‘Facilitation and biodiversity-ecosystem functioning research’. This is a mini-review using a meta-analysis to explore one simple question - does increase local species richness increase facilitation of biodiversity maintenance in plant communities. It did not! We are confident that this contribution will stimulate discussion and advance theory.

We hope you enjoy the contribution. I love the mini-review format, and I love metas! I hope we can take metas off the pedestal and show that it can be used a direct, useful tool to explore an idea.

I recognize everyone is overwhelmed right now. However, Frida Piper, Pierre Mariotte, and Caroline Brophy are all superb potential subject editors for the contribution.

Be safe and well.

Best,

Christopher Lortie and collaborators.