

# 2025 PhD Daily Log

Mao

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## September 16, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Finish the phylo tree for mastTrait
- Bayes meeting
- Figured out the DPI problem

### Notes / Study Summary

Figured out how to make a circular tree. You can do it in the fancy way by using ggtree package, but I didn't get it working for me sadly. I used the basic plot function, just make the type to be "fan", and you can get a circular tree!

Jenna presented at the Bayes meeting today on bumble bee foraging. Her key question is that she has data collected at different time which is closely related to flora resources quality etc.. The final suggestion she got is adding a weighed term account for the proportion of data collected in certain time.

Didn't really get too deep into the DPI problem, I will try to test on a few tmr see if it worth doing the hand measuring or just redo all the scanning.

### Challenges / Questions

- Do I want to calculate the DPI, which might not be that accurate. Or re-scan everything...

### Ideas / Next Steps

- I will do some calculation on DPI for now, let's see if it works...
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## September 17, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Finish the phylo tree for mastTrait
- Figured out the DPI problem

### Notes / Study Summary

Made the tree with masting info for mastTrait and updated the tree for egret. Learned some new plotting techniques which I will add to my cheatsheet soon.

Ended up wfh today because I planned for lunch with Miah, I will continue with the DPI problem tmr.

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## September 18, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Clean the flowering time data
- Finished the first chapter of Probability
- Prepare some flash card on cone reproduction

### Notes / Study Summary

I ended up realize that there are more data available on the USDA Fire Effects Information System website, including more masting information, soil and climate info. I decided that I would record the climate (moisture and temperature) and soil (dry/wet) to account for the different environments. I also read about the vegetation types in North America which I wonder if I can also use for my analysis. Anyway, I think the collecting and cleaning data might take me another week.

I finally decided to rescan all the tree cores just for a more confirmed DPI without introducing too much error.

### Challenges / Questions

- How to classify these species into different environment categories? Now I have climate, soil (dry/wet), biome and elevation maybe?
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## September 19, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Continue getting more data for mastTrait
- Catch up on climategrowth repo

### Notes / Study Summary

Got more data for mastTrait, decided to get data on whether they have an effective seedbank as well since that data is available on USDA. This can be used as an indicator of seed longevity maybe.

Didn't really get too much on the climategrowth repo, I think I am a bit confused.

### Challenges / Questions

- I think I have too much to catch up on climategrowth repo.

## Ideas / Next Steps

- Maybe try to read the issues and talk with Victor?
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## September 22, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Continue getting more data for mastTrait
- Catch up on climategrowth repo
- Training on 3322
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### Notes / Study Summary

Got more data for mastTrait, found another new website providing some lifespan and reproduction age data: The Gymnosperm Database. Lizzie ask for generation time for some species on climategrowth project and gave me another paper to look at.

I finally got back on scanning again. To make sure we can always check the DPI later, we captured an image of the scaler at the end of the batch. However, it seemed that adding the scaler as a sample was a bad idea. I only need to capture single sample and it would appear in the folder.

Didn't have time to work on egret

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## September 23, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Continue getting more data for mastTrait
- Refine egretTree, finish my tasks on USDA

### Notes / Study Summary

I prioritized the egret tasks for today, finalized on the color palette for my tree, and checked on the tables assigned to me. I also set up some tree cores for scanning.

### Challenges / Questions

- The tree cores were scanned, maybe because it was upset with the 0,0 which I used to capture the scaler?
- USDA cleaning code seems to be a little bit messy especially with the fact that some columns' names got changed.

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## September 24, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Meeting with Jenn for the reading list
- Egret meeting
- Continue with datascraping and cores

### Notes / Study Summary

Had a great meeting with Jenn today, she recommended me to read something on the life-history and trade-offs. I found the books she recommended available in the library.

Had the egret meeting today. We discussed about potential better management of the pipeline cleaning code. We should've had all the manual cleaning (using the which statement) in the very beginning in the cleaning code before we change any column names and make further cleaning using code. I think I can fix this.

The core scanning was successful, but my suspension is that the light was too dark, I turned up the light and started another batch. Hopefully it will work better.

### Challenges / Questions

- Cores not able to be scanned.

### Ideas / Next Steps

- Changed the light setup.
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## September 25, 2025

### Tasks for the Day

- Continue with datasraping and cores
- Reading for comps

### Notes / Study Summary

I did something really stupid...I accidentally deleted everything operating TINA, which I didn't realized and could not make TINA work again. Even though everything is backup-ed on GitHub, but I still feel frustrated. I think me personally don't know Linux command well enough, and it is actually quite dangerous for me to use command to operate TINA. I wanted to learn Linux command many years ago but never got a chance to start. I felt that my learning ability is getting worse and slower which makes me feel

sad and helpless. Anyway, this is a daily log, not your journal. I already contacted Adam and he said he would come over to check on TINA next week when he is on campus. Couldn't get the books Jenn recommended, I guess I'll have to actually go through those shelves and find the books myself.

### **Challenges / Questions**

- TINA IS NOT WORKING

### **Ideas / Next Steps**

- ADAM PLEASE HELP STUPID ME
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## **September 26, 2025**

### **Tasks for the Day**

- Getting books for comps
- More data

### **Notes / Study Summary**

It was a hectic day because I tried to fix TINA but still failed. It kept showing an error which I couldn't understand. I decided to ask Adam for help next week.

On a more cheerful note, I finally got the two books Jenn recommended from the library. The life history evolution book looks different than the one Jenn showed me, which I later realized was actually not the correct one!

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