

sDiv working group meeting report

“sMile: Synthesising plant Metabolomics into biodiversity, Life history & Ecology”

Focal areas of discussion, main results/conclusions, and general research discussed

This meeting was a targeted workshop with a subset of sMiLE members to develop the content for an ecological metabolomics handbook, which is a planned output of the wider sMiLE initiative. Handbook section headers and draft content had been developed with all sMiLE members during – and between – previous meetings. Discussion at this meeting thus centred around three main objectives: (i) finalising, merging, and editing handbook sections; (ii) drafting the main text of an accompanying review paper; and (iii) planning a roadmap to completion.

General structure of the meeting

The meeting was a hybrid in-person and remote format, with most participants being present in the room. Activities rotated between group discussions (e.g. on figure design), focussed writing time (e.g. on the manuscript), and breakout groups (e.g. on specific handbook sections). While a daily work/rest routine was followed, activities were decided upon based on group dynamics (e.g. writing fatigue) and project needs (e.g. a specific roadblock requiring discussion to overcome).

Next steps and upcoming deliverables

With a roadmap to completion in place, we are now working towards a final draft for review by all sMiLE members. We aim to circulate the final draft by October 2023, with the manuscript being submitted by early 2024.

General working atmosphere

As ever, sDiv support was excellent. Support included, but was not limited to, physical meeting space, meeting stationery (e.g. flipcharts), IT infrastructure for connecting with remote participants, and licenses for specific software (e.g. Google Docs compatible reference management software). This, alongside the positive attitude and motivation of all meeting participants, led to a stimulating, friendly, and productive working atmosphere.