Editorial

An international meeting place in a pandemic – a personal reflection
by Marten Winter

What is the new "normal"? An international meeting place in a pandemic – a (longer personal) reflection on how to support collaborative synthesis research, when struggling with visas, home schooling and never-ending uncertainties.

Read more

Latest news

New sDiv call for synthesis projects!
Pre-Proposal deadline: 15th March 2022

10th sDiv Call
sDiv Calls for Early Career Researcher Working Groups (ECR) and Modular Synthesis Projects (SynFlex) starting in 2023.

With this call, we want to specifically encourage applications from researchers from regions that are often underrepresented in science.

Read more

Insight stories

sROOT - Root Trait functionality in a Whole-Plant Context
by Liesje Mommer and Alexandra Weigelt

We are gRoot! Creating the largest root trait database globally using board games and statistical models running for three weeks.

Read more
Stephanie Jurburg, former sDiv Postdoc (Photo: Stefan Bernhardt / iDiv)

Echoes from the depths of the sequence archives
by Stephanie Jurburg

I thought when starting as sDiv postdoc, data availability in microbial ecology wouldn’t be my biggest issue. I was very wrong…

Read more

Alexander Zizka, former sDiv Postdoc (Photo: Stefan Bernhardt / iDiv)

What the hell is synthesis?
by Alexander Zizka

“What the hell is synthesis?” was the first question that came to my mind. The only tangible connection for me was old Hegel: “Thesis – Antithesis - Synthesis”…

Read more

Recent Publications


Poorter, L., Craven et al. (2021) Multidimensional tropical forest recovery. Science, 374, 1370-1376. (sUCCESS working group)


Swan, C.M. et al. (2021) A framework for understanding how biodiversity patterns unfold across multiple spatial scales in urban ecosystems. Ecosphere, 12, e03650. (sUBioCity working group)


The sDiv Google Scholar page provides a comprehensive overview of our synthesis publications.

sDiv at Google Scholar
Pandemic time

sDevTrait – Streamlining Development Efforts in Tools for Ecological Trait Analyses
by Alexander Keller

How to successfully change plans from bringing the world leading experts in species traits, FAIR data, ontologies and software developers in one room at iDiv to move into… well yet another zoom room.

Read more

Supporting virtual/hybrid working group meetings and sDiv projects
by Sulochana Swathi Kannan

Help with note taking, zoom break out room preparation and sending meeting information around. Is this really helpful? It is! For all parties...

Read more

Upcoming sDiv working group meetings

sRedList – Accelerating IUCN Red List assessments for rapid and effective biodiversity monitoring
www.idiv.de/sredlist

FunProd (BiodivERsA)
www.idiv.de/funprod

sCaleWebs – Unifying environmental and spatial determinants of food web structure across spatial scales
www.idiv.de/scalewebs

sOilFauna: How human activities impact soil macrofauna communities and how it relates to primary productivity? A global synthesis.
www.idiv.de/soilfauna

sCom – Advancing inference for eDNA and other novel, high-throughput community data
www.idiv.de/scom

INTRACO (Cesab-sDiv-Call)
www.idiv.de/en/working-groups/joint-cesab-sdiv-call

sMars – Synthesis of movement across scales: towards a process-based prediction of biodiversity patterns
www.idiv.de/smars

sTeTra – Quantifying temporal change in traits across taxa and the globe
www.idiv.de/stetra

sTRAITS – Integrating in-situ, upscaled and air- and spaceborne observations of plant traits
www.idiv.de/straits

sToration – Applying Coexistence Theory to Restoration Ecology and Adaptive Management
www.idiv.de/storation

sPSF – Soil microbial controls over plant coexistence - synthesizing data and theory to unravel context dependence of plant-soil feedbacks under global change
www.idiv.de/spsf
sEnigmas: Seeing the forest instead of the trees: identifying the common mechanisms behind enigmas of biodiversity  
www.idiv.de/senigmas

sILK: Synthesizing Indigenous and Local Knowledge worldviews to develop frameworks for effective operationalization of relational values in environmental governance  
www.idiv.de/silk

sDevTrait – Streamlining Development Efforts in Tools for Ecological Trait Analyses  
www.idiv.de/sdevtrait

sPriority – Mechanisms and Quantification of Priority Effects  
www.idiv.de/spriority

sUCCESS – Pantropical forest succession  
www.idiv.de/success

sIntESE: Integrating ecosystem services into economic models  
www.idiv.de/sintese

Check out the dates