



## Editorial



Marten Winter, Head of sDiv (Photo: private)

### An international meeting place in a pandemic – a personal reflection

by sMarten 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:  
**15<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

#### 10th sDiv Call

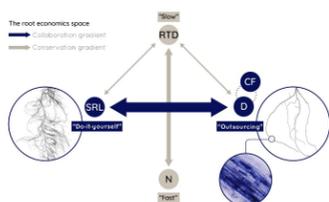
sDiv Calls for Early Career Researcher Working Groups (ECR) and Modular Synthesis Projects (SynFlex) starting in 2023.

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

[Read more](#)



## Insight stories



key figure from sROOT in Bergmann et al 2020, Science Advances

### 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...

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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

Bennett, J.M. et al. (2021) [The evolution of critical thermal limits of life on Earth](#). Nature Communications, 12, 1198. (sWEEP working group with former postdoc [Joanne Bennett](#))

Grenié, M. et al. (2022) [Harmonizing taxon names in biodiversity data: a review of tools, databases, and best practices](#). Methods in Ecology and Evolution, n/a (postdoc [Matthias Grenie](#) & [Marten Winter](#))

Guerrero-Ramírez, N.R. et al. (2020) [Global root traits \(GRoot\) database](#). Global Ecology and Biogeography, 30, 25-37. (sRoot working group)

Mansur, A.V. et al. (2022) [Nature futures for the urban century: Integrating multiple values into urban management](#). Environmental Science & Policy, 131, 46-56. (sUrBio2050 working group with former postdoc [Andressa Vianna Mansur](#))

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

Srivastava, D.S. et al. (2021) [Maintaining momentum for collaborative working groups in a post-pandemic world](#). Nature Ecology & Evolution, 5, 1188-1189. (Joint Synthesis Consortium)

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

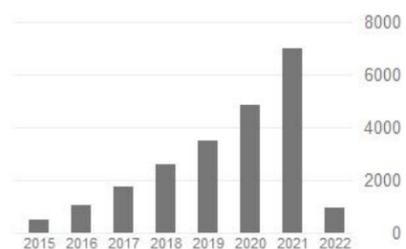
Walker, T.W.N. et al. (2022) [Functional Traits 2.0: The power of the metabolome for ecology](#). Journal of Ecology, 110, 4-20. (sMiLE working group)

Cited by

	All	Since 2017
Citations	22764	20848
h-index	84	81
i10-index	208	203

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

[sDiv at Google Scholar](#)





## Pandemic time



sDevTrait working group picture (photo: sDiv)

### 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](#)



Sulochana Swathi Kannan (Photo: Prof. Dr. Alexandra Mueller-Riehl / Leipzig University)

### 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](http://www.idiv.de/sredlist)

FunProd (BiodivERsA)  
[www.idiv.de/funprod](http://www.idiv.de/funprod)

sScaleWebs – Unifying environmental and spatial determinants of food web structure across spatial scales  
[www.idiv.de/scalewebs](http://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](http://www.idiv.de/soilfauna)

sCom – Advancing inference for eDNA and other novel, high-throughput community data  
[www.idiv.de/scom](http://www.idiv.de/scom)

INTRACO (Cesab-sDiv-Call)  
[www.idiv.de/en/working-groups/joint-cesab-sdiv-call](http://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](http://www.idiv.de/smars)

sTeTra – Quantifying temporal change in traits across taxa and the globe  
[www.idiv.de/stetra](http://www.idiv.de/stetra)

sTRAITS – Integrating in-situ, upscaled and air- and spaceborne observations of plant traits  
[www.idiv.de/straits](http://www.idiv.de/straits)

sToration – Applying Coexistence Theory to Restoration Ecology and Adaptive Management  
[www.idiv.de/storation](http://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](http://www.idiv.de/spsf)

sEnigmas: Seeing the forest instead of the trees: identifying the common mechanisms behind enigmas of biodiversity  
[www.idiv.de/senigmas](http://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](http://www.idiv.de/silk)

sDevTrait – Streamlining Development Efforts in Tools for Ecological Trait Analyses  
[www.idiv.de/sdevtrait](http://www.idiv.de/sdevtrait)

sPriority – Mechanisms and Quantification of Priority Effects  
[www.idiv.de/spriority](http://www.idiv.de/spriority)

sUCCESS – Pantropical forest succession  
[www.idiv.de/success](http://www.idiv.de/success)

sIntESE: Integrating ecosystem services into economic models  
[www.idiv.de/sintese](http://www.idiv.de/sintese)

Check out the dates



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iDiv is a central facility of Leipzig University within the meaning of Section 92 (1) of the Act on Academic Freedom in Higher Education in Saxony (Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz, SächsHSFG). It is run together with the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, as well as in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research –UFZ. The following non-university research institutions are involved as cooperation partners: the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry (MPI BGC), the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology (MPI CE), the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA), the Leibniz Institute DSMZ – German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Leibniz Institute Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG).

