sDiv working group meeting report
"sTeTra - Quantifying temporal change in traits across taxa and the globe"

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

We discussed five projects which were in different stages, from well thought through to just starting to brainstorm. The most advanced project we discussed, which has now been submitted to a high impact journal, centred around an analysis of the change in body size across taxa led by Inês Martins. We had further intense discussions in break out groups and with the full sTeTra team on the assessment of changes in functional and taxonomic rarity, life history trait plasticity, variance in life history population trend and changes to fast/slow and reproductive investment strategies through time and across taxa. For all projects, we went through the data available, wrote code to ease integration of different traits across taxa and agreed on the key questions we want to address. We also started drafting conceptual figures and null models for most of these projects.

General structure of the meeting

The meeting was a hybrid in-person and remote format, with most participants being present in the room and some participants joining online from across Europe, Maine, Arizona, BC and Hawai'i. Activities rotated between group discussions (e.g. on conceptualisation of the project ideas), focussed writing time and breakout groups (on each of the project ideas).

Next steps and upcoming deliverables

We experienced several setbacks due to health issues, moving continents, finishing PhDs etc. which delayed some progress but are set to pick up and finalise at least two of the above projects. Due to considerable overlap in the ideas and approach, we also decided to merge the fast/slow and life history population trend projects into one with the two initial leads working on this together.

General working atmosphere

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

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