The TRY initiative on plant traits: recent and ongoing developments

Jens Kattge (1,2), Sandra Diaz (3), Sandra Lavorel (4), Colin Prentice (5), Paul Leadley (6), Gerhard Boenisch (1), Christian Wirth (1,2,7), and the TRY consortium

(1) Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany (jkattge@bgc-jena.mpg.de), (2) German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Germany, (3) Universidad Nacionalde Córdoba, Instituto Multidisciplinario de Biología Vegetal, Córdoba, Argentina, (4) Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine (LECA), CNRS, Grenoble, France, (5) Imperial College London, Grantham Institute and Division of Biology, London, United Kingdom, (6) Université Paris-Sud, Laboratoire Ecologie, Systematique, Evolution, Orsay, France, (7) University of Leipzig, Institute for Special Botany and Functional Biodiversity, Leipzig, Germany

In 2017 the TRY initiative (www.try-db.org) has celebrated its 10th anniversary. During these years the TRY database has continuously grown and moved from a 'give-and-take system' to open access, which induced an 'explosion' of data requests. Recently version 4 of the TRY database has been released, which not only provides more trait records, but key aspects of data curation have been improved as well, i.e. the standardization of plant taxa and trait names. In parallel, TRY has developed the opportunity to publish individual plant trait datasets, including provision of DOIs. In cooperation with the Biodiversity Data Journal we are now working towards seamless data publications. This presentation will provide a brief overview of data publication, coverage, curation and availability in the context of the TRY initiative and present highlight results including the imputation of missing trait values, the global spectrum of plant form and function, trait-environment relationships, mapping plant traits and trait-based development of vegetation and ecosystem models.