

Traits, Niches & Climate as common coinage

a workshop sponsored by

Integrative Climate Change Biology Programme
(iCCB)

in partnership with
the Swiss national IUBS committee

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Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, WSL
Birmensdorf, Switzerland



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Swiss Academy of Sciences
Akademie der Naturwissenschaften
Accademia di scienze naturali
Académie des sciences naturelles

Background

Traits have become an increasingly important focus in ecological, evolutionary and climatic research. While trait-based approaches to botanical systems are relatively well developed, the study of animal systems lags behind. One exciting thing about trait-based approaches is that traits can bridge between past and future because they can be studied in the fossil record as well as the modern world. This workshop aims to collaboratively develop modelling that integrates plant, animal and climate interactions based on traits. This workshop follows the highly successful workshop held in Frankfurt am Main in October 2011.

The workshop is composed of participants from previous meetings, with new invited leading experts on trait-based modelling. The main focus of the workshop will be how to deliver trait-based ecological niche models (ENM) for past time periods, how to combine trait-based ENMs with existing taxonomic ENMs, and to identify the limitations that palaeo data enforce on these exercises. Important questions to be discussed include: What role does evolution and phylogenies have on this? What effects do trait heritability and ecophenotypic plasticity have? One major theme will also be marrying the climate models and ENMs for past time periods: can this be done, how, what options there are. Discussion of combining concepts from zoological and botanical subdisciplines will also take place.

List of Invited Participants

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* = local attendees

Members of Swiss national IUBS Committee (Paid by Swiss national IUBS committee)

Ex officio: Dr. Nathalie Fomproix, Executive Director IUBS
Pia Stieger, Scnat (Swiss academy of natural sciences)

Workshop Schedule

Day 1

Arrival

Dinner / get together (If everybody arrives early, we could have dinner on a boat on Lake Zurich)

Day 2

9-9.15 The International Union of Biological Sciences (Christoph)

9.15-9.40 What is iCCB (Mikael)

9.40-10.00 short round of introductions (people to bring one ppt slide to summarize their background, and give each 2 min to explain)

10.00-10.30 Main Agenda (Jussi)

10.30-10.45 coffee

10.45-12.30 Reports from the working groups of previous meeting (what has been accomplished) and short targeted presentations from the new invitees

12.30 -13.30 lunch at WSL

13.30-15.00 Traits, Niches, Evolution: How does evolution of traits affect niches and modeling

15.00-15.15 coffee

15.15-16.30 continued discussion

16.30-17.30 agenda for the second day

18.30 (or thereabout) Dinner On

Day 3

9.00 – 10.30 Climate modelling, traits, evolution, geographic distributions and bringing all this together – based on the agenda.

10.30-10.45 coffee

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10.45-12.30 Discussion continued

12.30- 13.30 lunch

13.30-14.30 Discussion continued

14.30-14.45 Coffee

14.45 – 17.30 Summary and Products: future plans. The Innovations meeting to be organized in 2013, working group plans etc.

Possibility for a field excursion (8th-9th in the Swiss Alps (not covered by the iCCB programme)

Accommodation

To be announced later (Staff at WSL will establish links to a few hotels that are within easy reach)

Directions to the Meeting place

http://www.wsl.ch/info/kontakt/anfahrt/index_EN

Contact Information

Logistics

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Travel Reimbursement

Will be covered by iCCB, details later.