REGISTRATION REPORT PROTOCOL

Exploring the impact of trait number and type on functional diversity metrics in real-world ecosystems

Timothy Ohlert¹*, Kaitlin Kimmel², Meghan Avolio³, Cynthia Chang⁴, Elisabeth Forrestel⁵, Benjamin Gerstner¹, Sarah E. Hobbie⁶, Kimberly Komastu⁷, Peter Reich⁸,⁹,¹⁰, Kenneth Whitney¹

¹ Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, United States of America, ² Mad Agriculture, Boulder, Colorado, ³ Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States of America, ⁴ Division of Biological Sciences, University of Washington, Bothell, WA, United States of America, ⁵ Department of Viticulture and Enology, University of California, Davis, CA, United States of America, ⁶ Ecology, Evolution and Behavior Department, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, United States of America, ⁷ Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD, United States of America, ⁸ Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, United States of America, ⁹ Institute for Global Change Biology and School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, United States of America, ¹⁰ Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, Penrith South, NSW, Australia

* tohlert@unm.edu

Abstract

The use of trait-based approaches to understand ecological communities has increased in the past two decades because of their promise to preserve more information about community structure than taxonomic methods and their potential to connect community responses to subsequent effects of ecosystem functioning. Though trait-based approaches are a powerful tool for describing ecological communities, many important properties of commonly-used trait metrics remain unexamined. Previous work in studies that simulate communities and trait distributions show consistent sensitivity of functional richness and evenness measures to the number of traits used to calculate them, but these relationships have yet to be studied in actual plant communities with a realistic distribution of trait values, ecologically meaningful covariation of traits, and a realistic number of traits available for analysis. Therefore, we propose to test how the number of traits used and the correlation between traits used in the calculation of functional diversity indices impacts the magnitude of eight functional diversity metrics in real plant communities. We will use trait data from three grassland plant communities in the US to assess the generality of our findings across ecosystems and experiments. We will determine how eight functional diversity metrics (functional richness, functional evenness, functional divergence, functional dispersion, kernel density estimation (KDE) richness, KDE evenness, KDE dispersion, Rao’s Q) differ based on the number of traits used in the metric calculation and on the correlation of traits when holding the number of traits constant. Without a firm understanding of how a scientist’s choices impact these metric, it will be difficult to compare results among studies with different metric parametrization and thus, limit robust conclusions about functional composition of communities across systems.
Data Availability Statement: All relevant data from this study will be made available upon study completion.

Funding: KW - DEB-1257965 National Science Foundation Division of Environmental Biology https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=DBI SH - DBI- 1725683, DEB-1753859, DEB- 1831944 National Science Foundation Division of Environmental Biology, National Science foundation Division of Biological Infrastructure https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=DBI PR - DBI- 1725683, DEB-1753859 National Science Foundation Division of Environmental Biology, National Science foundation Division of Biological Infrastructure https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=DBI EF - DEB-0841917 National Science Foundation Division of environmental biology https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=DBI The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist

Introduction

Trait-based diversity measures have advanced the field of community ecology by increasing our understanding of both community assembly and diversity impacts on ecosystem functions [1, 2]. Functional diversity metrics allow researchers to quantify multiple facets of diversity, place an emphasis on mechanisms of community assembly, and provide a ‘common currency’ by which communities can be compared across sites and ecosystems [3, 4]. Traditional measures for characterizing communities, such as species richness and species ordinations, use species’ taxonomic classifications as discrete units, but functional diversity metrics can preserve more information about community assembly and function by including traits of species organized on continuous axes [5, 6].

Several aspects of functional and taxonomic diversity have been extensively studied. Scientists have probed functional diversity’s correlation with species richness [7, 8] and ecosystem functioning [4], the importance of intraspecific trait variation for diversity [4, 9, 10], and the ecological hypotheses that functional diversity metrics can test, such as optimal strategies or functional turnover [6, 11]. Many taxonomic measures of community diversity have been extensively studied for their mathematical properties to allow these metrics to be comparable across sites and ecosystems, such as Shannon’s diversity and Simpson’s evenness that have mathematical characteristics linked to species number [12, 13]. Similarly, functional diversity metrics have mathematical characteristics that may cause the number or type of traits used to calculate the metric to impact the measure. For example, multidimensional metrics are calculated with additional dimensions for each additional trait included, and the correlation between traits affects the importance of each dimension to the metric. Therefore, functional diversity could differ among replicate plots or sites simply because of the number or types of traits used to calculate the metric without any underlying ecological basis. Though single-trait indices are an effective tool for linking trait diversity to specific ecosystem processes [14, 15], indices based on multiple traits may better match ecological theories of community assembly around multidimensional niche space [16–18]. As use of multi-trait functional diversity increases, it is important to determine the conditions under which they reflect ecological processes as opposed to mathematical patterns.

Studies using simulated communities have tested whether the number and correlation of traits used in functional diversity metrics can impact the magnitude of the metric [7, 19]. Using simulated data, Legras et al. [19] showed that functional richness and functional divergence metrics decreased with increased trait number, but functional evenness metrics were not responsive to increasing trait numbers. Also using simulated data, Cornwell et al. [7] showed that convex hull volume (commonly referred to as “functional richness”) tended to decrease with increasing correlation among traits included in the metric calculation, and that the decrease was greater in more species-rich communities. The limitations of functional diversity metrics described in these studies with simulated community data could be exacerbated when applied in natural communities. Calculating functional diversity measures in natural communities poses additional challenges both ecological and practical. Real plant communities are non-random assemblages of species which are influenced by competitive interactions, coexistence, mutualisms, niche partitioning, and environmental filtering among many other processes of community assembly [20–25]. Functional diversity metrics are likely to exhibit patterns due to ecologically meaningful correlation of traits in real communities, in particular, among suites of traits typically used in community ecology such as the leaf economic spectrum and root economic spectrum [26, 27]. Moreover, real data collection introduces constraints on trait data, such as realistic numbers of traits collected given limited resources and missing trait data, particularly for rare species. Functional diversity metrics,
therefore, are most often calculated with fewer traits and fewer species than those in studies based on simulated communities.

The field lacks clear guidelines for researchers to follow when choosing the number and types of traits to include when calculating functional diversity metrics. Decisions are often based on researcher intuition and the practices of similar studies, but such intuition and interpretation of trait selection can be improved by rigorous exploration of the impact of trait selection on diversity metrics [4, 28, 29]. These decisions can fall along a spectrum of options ranging from selecting the minimum number of traits needed to calculate a metric to using every trait available. For example, some studies suggest that researchers use a small number of traits related to certain ecosystem properties or other topics of interest (e.g., [8]), regardless of how correlated they may be. Other studies use all available traits in order to maximize the dimensions of diversity being studied in an effort to comprehensively assess the niche space that species and communities occupy (e.g., [30]). Choosing traits that are highly correlated can result in an underrepresentation of the diversity of functions present by overemphasizing groups of traits which describe similar processes, such as traits involved in the leaf economics spectrum [31]. Further, functional diversity metric calculation in high dimensional space can require dimensionality reduction—another decision that can impact the value of the metric calculated. However, few studies scrutinize how these decisions can impact conclusions when using functional diversity metrics to characterize communities.

Here, we aim to understand how the number of traits and correlation between traits impact functional diversity values. We will focus on eight measures of functional diversity that express principal facets of community trait composition (see Table 1 for more details on each metric): functional richness (FRich), functional evenness (FEve), functional divergence (FDiv), functional dispersion (FDis), Rao’s Q, kernel density estimation (KDE) richness, KDE evenness, and KDE dispersion [31–34]. We will use trait data from real (natural/intact and experimental) plant communities, which will allow us to understand how these metrics respond to a realistic spread of traits and species richness. In this study, we will use trait data collected from three U. S. grasslands, which range from tallgrass prairie to desert grassland, to test impacts of trait number and identity in functional diversity metric values. Our dataset includes plant traits collected on location at these three sites that include both naturally assembled and planted communities.

Specifically, we ask:

1. Do functional richness, functional evenness, and functional dispersion vary with respect to the number and correlation of traits used? Based on findings from [19], we expect functional richness, KDE richness, functional dispersion, and functional divergence to decrease with increasing numbers of traits, but for Rao’s Q to increase [35] and functional evenness to be unresponsive to the number of traits. We do not have a priori hypotheses for KDE evenness and KDE dispersion since properties of these metrics have yet to be explicitly studied. Based on [7], we expect that functional richness will be greater when traits are less correlated. However, we do not have directional hypotheses for the rest of the metrics.

2. Is metric sensitivity to trait number/type consistent across sites and experiments? If metric sensitivity is consistent across sites, it will be easier to standardize functional diversity metrics across different studies. If sensitivity is not consistent across sites, further investigation will be necessary to understand the consequences of this when comparing functional diversity across sites.
Methods

Site descriptions

Here we will use data from three grassland sites across the United States that span a range of climate (MAP 250mm—866 mm, MAT 6˚C—15˚C) and species diversity. We will use two sites with naturally assembled communities and one with a planted community in order to be representative of the state of grassland studies where some use naturally assembled communities while others use planted communities.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (East Bethel, Minnesota, USA) is in central Minnesota and classified as a tallgrass prairie. According to Koppen and Geiger classification, the climate is characterized as cold continental with hot summer, but without a dry season [Peel 2007]. The mean growing season (May–August) precipitation is approximately 420 mm, mean minimum growing season temperature is 12˚C, and mean maximum growing season temperature is 25˚C (1982–2016 period; http://www.cedarcreek.umn.edu/research/data). Soils at Cedar Creek are characterized as nutrient-poor entisols derived from a glacial outwash sand plain [36]. The study from Cedar Creek consists of artificially planted communities.

Konza Prairie Biological Station (Manhattan, Kansas, USA) is in eastern Kansas in the Flint Hills ecoregion. Konza is classified as a tallgrass prairie, and much of the site has remained unplowed throughout its history [37]. Konza’s growing season extends from roughly May–October, with annual precipitation averaging 835 mm and average July air temperature of 27C [37].

The Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge is in central New Mexico at the northern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert. The Sevilleta includes desert grasslands, and the climate is characterized as cold semi-arid according to the Koppen and Geiger classification [36]. The growing season is characterized by two rainy periods (March—May and July—September) split by a dry
period. The mean monsoon growing season precipitation is approximately 150 mm and the mean monsoon growing season temperature is 22°C.

Community composition data

We will use one to four studies at each site (n = 7 studies total) within one year to characterize the functional diversity of grassland plant communities.

At Cedar Creek, we will use community composition data from all 16-species plots in a biodiversity, CO₂, and nitrogen addition experiment (BioCON, n = 48). All 16-species plots were originally planted with the same mixture of species (*Achillea millefolium*, *Amorpha canescens*, *Andropogon gerardii*, *Anemone cylindrica*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Bouteloua gracilis*, *Bromus inermis*, *Elymus repens*, *Koeleria cristata*, *Lespedeza capitata*, *Lupinus perennis*, *Petalostemum villosum*, *Poa pratensis*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Solidago rigida*, and *Sorghastrum nutans*) such that all species were seeded at the same density in 1997. Plots are weeded every year to remove invading species. Through time, the plots can lose species (and regain those), but could never gain new species. Further, species abundances shifted from the equal proportion planted in the first year. Every August, species abundances were visually estimated in a 1 m² permanent plot. Here, we used data from 2020—the most recent year species abundances are available.

At both Konza and Sevilleta, we will use several studies as representative plant communities. This ensures that we will at least have one study per site if we need to drop observations because trait coverage is too low (see below for discussion).

At Konza, we will use community composition data from 4 watershed transects with different burn frequencies and grazing patterns. Konza is dominated by a few C4 grass species (*Andropogon gerardii*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Sorghastrum nutans*), with the bulk of species diversity made up by C3 grasses and forbs [37]. Specifically, we will use one watershed that was burned annually but never grazed, one that was burned annually and grazed, one that was burned every 20 years but never grazed, and one that was burned every 20 years and grazed. Cover was estimated in permanent 1x1m plots twice per year. We will use the maximum cover of the species between these two sampling times to get a cover estimate per species. We will use data from the 2010 sampling because it was the same year that trait data were collected at Konza.

At Sevilleta, we used community composition data from two observational sites, one in a Great Plains grassland ecosystem and the other in a desert grassland ecosystem. The Great Plains grassland is dominated by *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama), a long-lived, caespitose, C4 perennial grass common throughout much of the United States and Canada. The desert grassland is dominated by *Bouteloua eriopoda* (black grama), a stoloniferous C4 perennial grass common in the southwestern United States and Mexico. These two dominant perennial grasses account for about 80% of vegetative cover in their respective ecosystems. Each site has 30 1x1m quadrats which were assayed in September of 2018, at the peak of the post-monsoon growing season and around the same time that trait data were collected. In each quadrat, plants were identified to species and their percent ground cover was visually estimated.

Trait data

Trait data were collected for the individuals found at each of the different sites. Thus, our trait data are representative of the traits actually found in the given community and not just an average independent of location. Traits include measurements from leaves (e.g. specific leaf area), stems (e.g. stem dry matter content), roots (e.g. root dry matter content), whole-plant (e.g. height), and ecological attributes (e.g. amount of nitrogen in monoculture). Including traits across these measurement categories provides a more-complete representation of...
community assemblages [38–41]. For detailed descriptions of trait collection protocols at each site, see S1 File.

At Cedar Creek, we will use trait data collected in the monoculture plots of the BioCON experiment. We will use trait data from monoculture plots that correspond to the CO\textsubscript{2} and N treatments to match with 16-species community plots. Data were collected between 1998 and 2020. Some traits were collected over multiple years whereas others were only collected once. In total, there were 10 distinct traits: specific leaf area (SLA), I\textsuperscript{1} (the amount of light at the soil surface in monoculture), R\textsuperscript{1} (the amount of nitrogen in monoculture), root %C, root %N, total root biomass, shoot %N, shoot %C, and seed mass.

At Konza, we will use trait data collected in a watershed that was burned annually and had no grazers. In total there were 12 distinct traits: plant height, leaf area, specific leaf area, leaf dry matter content, stomatal length, stomatal density, stomatal pore area index, leaf %N, leaf %C, d13C, photosynthetic pathway, and growth form.

At Sevilleta, we will use trait data collected primarily from September to November of 2017 on individuals growing under ambient conditions near permanent ambient plots used to monitor plant communities. The full suite of traits were often measured on the same individuals, up to 10 individuals per species. In total there were 10 distinct traits: maximum plant height, leaf dry matter content, specific leaf area, d15N, d13C, leaf %N, leaf %C, stem dry matter content, root dry matter content, and photosynthetic pathway.

For each trait at each site, we will calculate an average trait value based on all the measurements for the given species and trait. We acknowledge that this obscures variation within a given trait (intraspecific variation) for a species; such variation can be quite important for some questions [10, 42–44]. The impacts of intraspecific variation in this study are minimized by only using trait values collected at each site, but sufficient data were not collected for each trait of each species to include intraspecific variation into our analysis. Before analysis, we will remove species that have less than 100% trait coverage. We will, however, make sure that the communities are still represented by at least 80% of species abundance—this approach de-emphasizes the importance of rare species, but is a logistical constraint faced by many researchers doing trait analyses. This will ensure that we are representing the community to the best of our ability with the given trait data.

**Brief background on functional diversity metrics**

We will focus our analyses on eight common functional diversity metrics: functional richness (FRich) [8], functional evenness (FEve) [9], functional dispersion (FDis), functional divergence (FDiv), Rao’s Q, kernel density estimation (KDE) richness, KDE evenness, and KDE dispersion [33]. FRich is the multidimensional equivalent of a range [8]. It is calculated as the convex hull volume that is made from all trait values for up to \( n \) traits in the community. The number of dimensions used to calculate the final volume can be reduced from the total trait number [45]. FEve is the minimum spanning tree to quantify the regularity of branch lengths and the evenness in trait relative abundances. For each branch, \( l \), of the minimum spanning tree, the weighted evenness \((EW)\) is calculated as \( EW_l = \frac{\text{dist}(i, j)}{w_i + w_j} \) where \( i \) and \( j \) are species, and \( w_i \) is the relative abundance of species \( i \). Then, the partial weighted evenness \((PEW)\) is then calculated for each branch as \( PEW_l = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{S} \frac{EW_l}{S-1}}{\sum_{i=1}^{S} \text{min}(PEW_l, \frac{1}{S-1})} \) [9]. FDis is the weighted mean distance between species and a weighted-centroid. It is calculated as \( \sum_{j=1}^{S} \frac{a_j}{a_j} \) where \( a_j \) is the relative
abundance of species $j$ and $z_j$ is the distance species $j$ is from the weighted centroid [33]. FDiv is a relative abundance-weighted spread of traits along a trait axis independent of functional richness and is calculated as $\frac{\Delta d}{\Delta d_{i} + \Delta d_{j}}$ where $\Delta d$ is the mean distance of species to the weighted-centroid and $\Delta d$ is the sum of relative abundance-weighted deviances from the weighted-centroid [9]. Rao’s Q measures the pairwise differences in traits between species in a community and is calculated as $\sum_{i=1}^{S} \sum_{j=1}^{S} d_{ij} p_i$ where $S$ is the number of species in the community, $d_{ij}$ is the functional difference between the $i$-th and $j$-th species, and $p$ is a vector of relative abundance values [46]. These five functional diversity metrics commonly incorporate distance measures by reducing dimensionality using principal coordinates analysis (PCoA) to return PCoA axes which are used to calculate the functional diversity metrics. However, we will avoid this dimensionality reduction when possible (for all metrics except FRich, see discussion in Functional Diversity Calculations section).

$n$-dimensional hypervolumes use Gaussian kernel density estimation (KDE) to create a relative abundance-weighted probability distribution of traits in multidimensional space [34]. All KDE-based functional diversity metrics will be calculated using the hypervolume and bat packages in R [34, 47]. KDE richness is the total volume of the $n$-dimensional hypervolume created from unweighted trait values present in the community. KDE evenness is the overlap between the abundance-weighted $n$-dimensional hypervolume and a similar hypervolume in which all traits and abundances are distributed evenly. KDE dispersion is the average distance between random points within the $n$-dimensional hypervolume and the hypervolume centroid.

### Functional diversity calculations

For each site, we will follow the same protocol for calculating functional diversity metrics. We will calculate FRich, FEve, and FDis, FDiv, and Rao’s Q using the FD package in R [45] using both Gower and Euclidean dissimilarity as the distance measure, along with using the hypervolume package in R to calculate KDE $n$-dimensional hypervolumes which are passed to the bat package to create KDE richness, KDE evenness, and KDE dispersion [34, 47]. Gower dissimilarity has the capacity to calculate distances with categorical traits, though Euclidean dissimilarity is better for continuous traits. Functional diversity metrics from the FD package and kernel density estimation are among the most-used metrics for quantifying trait-based diversity within communities due to both ease of use and ecological relevance [34, 45]. We will use dimensionality reduction where necessary in our analyses. First, PCoA is done on the species-species matrix for each set of traits we consider. The categorical variables are taken into consideration in the creation of the distance matrix which is done using Gower dissimilarity. Thus, the PCoA is done on the continuous distance values rather than on the raw traits. Similar to Legras et al. [19], we are going to hold the number of dimensions equal to 2 for only our calculation of functional richness (FRich) as the other metrics do not require dimensionality reduction (note: FRich does not either if all traits are continuous, but we have several categorical traits in our dataset). We will then conduct a sensitivity analysis to determine if holding the number of dimensions equal to 3, 4, and the maximum (dimensions = number of traits when using all continuous traits or dimensions = number of traits-1 when including categorical traits) produce similar results. Each metric uses species presence/absence or relative abundance in a plot along with its associated trait metrics. We will calculate each metric using all possible combinations of two traits up to all possible combinations of the maximum number of traits at each site. For example, at Sevilleta there are 10 different traits so there are 45 2-trait calculations, 120 3-trait calculations, 210 4-trait calculations, and so forth up to 10 9-trait calculations and 1 10-trait calculation. To measure
the effects of trait correlation on functional diversity, we will focus on metrics calculated with 4 traits only to standardize between sites. We will calculate the minimum, maximum, and mean correlation between the traits at each site.

**Statistical analyses**

For each site separately, we will run mixed effects models to test the dependence of the three functional trait metrics on trait number and on trait correlation using the lme function from the nlme package in R [48]. To examine how trait number impacts the values of a given functional trait metric, we will run two models: Metric ~ trait number for 2–10 unique traits (the max number of traits at Cedar Creek and Sevilleta) and Metric ~ trait number for all traits possible to make sure our inferences are not impacted by excluding combinations of 11 and 12 traits at Konza. To examine how trait identity impacts the values of a given functional diversity metric, we will run 3 models for each site: Metric ~ min trait correlation, Metric ~ max trait correlation, Metric ~ mean trait correlation. We will explore which functional form of the predictor variables best fit the spread of the functional metric data by fitting linear, quadratic, cubic, and quartic fits. We will determine the models with the best fit using AIC values. We will account for repeated samples within plots by fitting plot as a random effect and an autoregressive correlation structure. We will account for multiple comparisons by adjusting our p-values using a Benjamini-Hochberg procedure [49].

**Timeline**

All trait and community data have already been collected that will be used in this study, but none of the authors have analyzed any subset of the data in this way before.

We expect to finish cleaning data within 4 weeks of acceptance of the Registered Report Protocol. We will then complete the rest of the analyses and create figures over the following 6 weeks. We will finish writing the manuscript in another 6 weeks after data analysis is completed.

All code used for analyses will be uploaded to one of the author’s OSF site before the second review stage.

**Supporting information**

*S1 File.*

(DOCX)

**Author Contributions**

**Conceptualization:** Timothy Ohlert, Kaitlin Kimmel, Meghan Avolio, Cynthia Chang, Benjamin Gerstner, Kimberly Komastu, Kenneth Whitney.

**Data curation:** Elisabeth Forrestel, Benjamin Gerstner, Sarah E. Hobbie, Peter Reich, Kenneth Whitney.

**Formal analysis:** Kaitlin Kimmel.

**Funding acquisition:** Elisabeth Forrestel, Sarah E. Hobbie, Peter Reich, Kenneth Whitney.

**Methodology:** Timothy Ohlert, Kaitlin Kimmel, Meghan Avolio, Cynthia Chang, Kimberly Komastu.

**Project administration:** Timothy Ohlert, Kaitlin Kimmel.

**Writing – original draft:** Timothy Ohlert, Kaitlin Kimmel.
Writing – review & editing: Meghan Avolio, Cynthia Chang, Elisabeth Forrestel, Benjamin Gerstner, Sarah E. Hobbie, Kimberly Komastu, Peter Reich, Kenneth Whitney.

References

1. Suding KN, Goldstein LJ. Testing the Holy Grail framework: using functional traits to predict ecosystem change. New Phytol. 2008; 180: 559–562. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-8137.2008.02650.x PMID: 19138225

2. Griffin-Nolan RJ, Bushey JA, Carroll CJW, Challis A, Chieppa J, Garbowska M, et al. Trait selection and community weighting are key to understanding ecosystem responses to changing precipitation regimes. Funct Ecol. 2018; 32: 1746–1756. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.13135

3. Lavorel S, Garnier E. Predicting changes in community composition and ecosystem functioning from plant traits: revisiting the Holy Grail. Funct Ecol. 2002; 16: 545–556. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2435.2002.00664.x

4. Funk JL, Larson JE, Ames GM, Butterfield BJ, Cavender-Bares J, Firn J, et al. Revisiting the Holy Grail: Using plant functional traits to predict ecological processes. Biol Rev. 2016. https://doi.org/10.1111/brv.12275 PMID: 27103505

5. Ackerly DD, Cornwell WK. A trait-based approach to community assembly: Partitioning of species trait values into within- and among-community components. Ecol Lett. 2007; 10: 135–145. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2006.00664.x PMID: 17257101

6. Boersma KS, Dee LE, Miller SJ, Bogan MT, Lytle DA, Gitelman AI. Linking multidimensional functional diversity to quantitative methods: a graphical hypothesis-evaluation framework. Ecology. 2016; 97: 583–593. https://doi.org/10.1890/15-0688 PMID: 27197386

7. Cornwell WK, Schwilk DW, Ackerly DD. A trait-based test for habitat filtering: Convex hull volume. Ecology. 2006; 87: 1465–1471. https://doi.org/10.1890/0012-9658(2006)87[1465:atbttf]2.0.co;2 PMID: 16869422

8. Villeger S, Mason H, Mouillot D. New multidimensional functional diversity indices for a multifacted framework in functional ecology. Ecology. 2008; 89: 2290–2301.

9. Des Roches S, Post DM, Turley NE, Bailey JK, Hendry AP, Kinnison MT, et al. The ecological importance of intraspecific variation. Nat Ecol Evol. 2018; 2: 57–64. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-017-0402-5 PMID: 29203921

10. Westerband AC, Funk JL, Barton KE. Intraspecific trait variation in plants: a renewed focus on its role in ecological processes. Annals of botany. 2021 Apr 1; 127(4):397–410. https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcab011 PMID: 33507251

11. Muscarella R, Uriarte M. Do community-weighted mean functional traits reflect optimal strategies? Proc R Soc B Biol Sci. 2016;283. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2015.2434 PMID: 27030412

12. Jost L. Partitioning diversity into independent alpha and beta components. Ecology, 2007; 88: 2427–2439. https://doi.org/10.1890/06-1736.1 PMID: 18027744

13. Smith B, Wilson JB. A consumer’s guide to evenness indices. Oikos. 1996; 76: 70–82.

14. Butterfield BJ, Suding KN. Single-trait functional indices outperform multi-trait indices in linking environmental gradients and ecosystem services in a complex landscape. Journal of Ecology. 2013 Jan; 101 (1):9–17.

15. Bílá K, Moretti M, de Bello F, Dias AT, Pezzatti GB, Van Oosten AR, et al. Disentangling community functional components in a litter-macrodetrivore model system reveals the predominance of the mass ratio hypothesis. Ecology and evolution. 2014 Feb; 4(4):408–16. https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.941 PMID: 24634725

16. Hutchinson CE. Concluding remarks, Coldspring Harbor Symposium. Quant. Biol. 1957; 22:415–27.

17. Spasojevic MJ, Suding KN. Inferring community assembly mechanisms from functional diversity patterns: the importance of multiple assembly processes. Journal of Ecology. 2012 May; 100(3):652–61.

18. Chase JM, Leibold MA. Ecological niches: linking classical and contemporary approaches. University of Chicago Press; 2009 Aug 11.

19. Legras G, Loiseau N, Gaertner JC, Poggiale JC, Gaertner-Mazouni N. Assessing functional diversity: the influence of the number of the functional traits. Theor Ecol. 2020; 13: 117–126. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12080-019-00433-x

20. Keddy PA. Assembly and response rules: two goals for predictive community ecology. Journal of vegetation science. 1992 Apr; 3(2):157–64.
21. Tilman D. Niche tradeoffs, neutrality, and community structure: a stochastic theory of resource competition, invasion, and community assembly. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 2004 Jul 27; 101(30):10854–61.

22. Kraft NJ, Adler PB, Godoy O, James EC, Fuller S, Levine JM. Community assembly, coexistence and the environmental filtering metaphor. Functional ecology. 2015 May; 29(5):592–9.

23. Götzenger L, de Bello F, Bráthen KA, Davison J, Dubuis A, Guisan A, et al. Ecological assembly rules in plant communities—approaches, patterns and prospects. Biological reviews. 2012 Feb; 87 (1):111–27. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-185X.2011.00187.x PMID: 21692965

24. Fukami T. Historical contingency in community assembly: integrating niches, species pools, and priority effects. Annual review of ecology, evolution, and systematics. 2015 Dec 4; 46:1–23.

25. Li Y, Shipley B, Price JN, Dantas V de L, Tamme R, Westoby M, et al. Habitat filtering determines the functional niche occupancy of plant communities worldwide. J Ecol. 2018; 106: 1001–1009. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.12802

26. Reich PB. The world-wide ‘fast–slow’ plant economics spectrum: a traits manifesto. Journal of ecology. 2014 Mar; 102(2):275–301.

27. Kong D, Wang J, Wu H, Valverde-Barrantes OJ, Wang R, Zeng H, et al. Nonlinearity of root trait relationships and the root economics spectrum. Nature Communications. 2020. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-020-08018-9 PMID: 32396412

28. Lefcheck JS, Duffy JE. Multitrophic functional diversity predicts ecosystem functioning in experimental assemblages of estuarine consumers. Ecology. 2015; 96: 2973–2983. https://doi.org/10.1890/14-1977.1

29. Poos MS, Walker SC, Jackson DA. Functional-diversity indices can be driven by methodological choices and species richness. Ecology. 2009; 90: 341–347. https://doi.org/10.1890/08-1638.1 PMID: 19323127

30. van der Plas F, Schröder-Georgi T, Weigelt A, Barry K, Meyer S, Alzate A, et al. Plant traits alone are poor predictors of ecosystem properties and long-term ecosystem functioning. Nat Ecol Evol. 2020. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-020-01316-9 PMID: 33020598

31. Osnas JL, Lichstein JW, Reich PB, Pacala SW. Global leaf trait relationships: Mass, area, and the leaf economics spectrum. Science (80-). 2013; 340: 741–744. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1231574

32. Mouchet MA, Villeger S, Mason NWH, Mouillot D. Functional diversity measures: An overview of their redundancy and their ability to discriminate community assembly rules. Funct Ecol. 2010; 24: 867–876. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2435.2010.01695.x

33. Laliberte E, Legendre P. A distance-based framework for measuring functional diversity from multiple traits. Ecology. 2010; 91: 299–305. 26. https://doi.org/10.1890/08-2244.1 PMID: 20380219

34. Mammola S., & Cardoso P. (2020). Functional diversity metrics using kernel density n-dimensional hypervolumes. Methods in Ecology and Evolution, 11(8), 986–995.

35. Zihao Z, Jihua H, Nianpeng H. Predictability of Functional Diversity Depends on the Number of Traits. J Resour Ecol. 2021; 12: 332–345. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jreser.2021.03.003

36. Peel MC, Finlayson BL, McMahon TA. Updated world map of the Köppen–Geiger climate classification. Hydrol Earth Syst Sci. 2007; 11: 1633–1644. https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-11-1633-2007

37. Knapp A. K., Briggs J. M., Blair J. M., & Turner C. L. (1998). Patterns and controls of aboveground net primary production in tallgrass prairie. Grassland dynamics: long-term ecological research in tallgrass prairie. Oxford University Press, New York, 193–221.

38. Frenette-Dussault C, Shipley B, Meziane D, Hingrat Y. Trait-based climate change predictions of plant community structure in arid steppes. Journal of ecology. 2013 Mar; 101(2):484–92.

39. Biswas SR, Mallik AU. Disturbance effects on species diversity and functional diversity in riparian and upland plant communities. Ecology. 2010 Jan; 91(1):28–35. https://doi.org/10.1890/08-0887.1

40. Kimmel K, Dee L, Tilman D, Aubin I, Boenisch G, Catford JA, et al. Chronic fertilization and irrigation gradually and increasingly restructure grassland communities. Ecosphere. 2019 Mar; 10(3):e02625.

41. Laughlin DC. The intrinsic dimensionality of plant traits and its relevance to community assembly. Journal of Ecology. 2014 Jan; 102(1):186–93.

42. Sievert A, Violle C, Chalmandrier L, Albert CH, Taudiere A, Fajardo A, et al. A global meta-analysis of the relative extent of intraspecific trait variation in plant communities. Ecology letters. 2015 Dec; 18 (12):1406–19. https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.12508 PMID: 26415616

43. Jung V, Violle C, Mondy C, Hoffmann L, Muller S. Intraspecific variability and trait-based community assembly. Journal of ecology. 2010 Sep; 98(5):1134–40.
44. Bolnick DI, Amarasekare P, Araújo MS, Bürger R, Levine JM, Novak M, et al. Why intraspecific trait variation matters in community ecology. Trends in ecology & evolution. 2011 Apr 1; 26(4):183–92. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2011.01.009 PMID: 21367482

45. Laliberté E, Legendre P, Bill Shipley. Measuring functional diversity (FD) from multiple traits, and other tools for functional ecology. 2015. pp. 1–28. http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/FD/FD.pdf

46. Botta-Dukát Z. (2005). Rao’s quadratic entropy as a measure of functional diversity based on multiple traits. Journal of vegetation science, 16(5), 533–540.

47. Blonder B, Morrow CB, Maitner B, Harris DJ, Lamanna C, Violle C, et al. New approaches for delineating n-dimensional hypervolumes. Methods in Ecology and Evolution. 2018 Feb; 9(2):305–19.

48. Pinheiro J, Bates D, DebRoy S, Sarkar D, R Core Team. nlme: Linear and nonlinear mixed effects models. 2020. p. R package version 3.1–148, <URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=nlme>

49. Benjamini Y, Hochberg Y. Controlling the false discovery rate: a practical and powerful approach to multiple testing. J R Stat Soc Ser B. 1995; 57: 289–300.

50. de Vries FT, Bardgett RD. Plant community controls on short-term ecosystem nitrogen retention. New Phytologist. 2016 May; 210(3):861–74. https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.13832 PMID: 26749302

51. de la Riva EG, Violle C, Pérez-Ramos IM, Marañón T, Navarro-Fernández CM, Olmo M, et al. A multidimensional functional trait approach reveals the imprint of environmental stress in Mediterranean woody communities. Ecosystems. 2018 Mar; 21(2):246–62.

52. Lourenço J Jr, Newman EA, Ventura JA, Milanez CR, Thomaz LD, Wandekoken DT, et al. Soil-associated drivers of plant traits and functional composition in the Atlantic Forest coastal tree communities. Ecosphere. 2021 Jul; 12(7):e03629.

53. Soares FC, de Lima RF, Palmeirim JM, Cardoso P, Rodrigues AS. Combined effects of bird extinctions and introductions in oceanic islands: Decreased functional diversity despite increased species richness. Global Ecology and Biogeography. 2022 Jun; 31(6):1172–83.

54. Piano E, Doretto A, Mammola S, Falasco E, Fenoglio S, Bona F. Taxonomic and functional homogenisation of macroinvertebrate communities in recently intermittent Alpine watercourses. Freshwater Biology. 2020 Dec; 65(12):2096–107.

55. Pavlek M, Mammola S. Niche-based processes explaining the distributions of closely related subterranean spiders. Journal of Biogeography. 2021 Jan 1; 48(1):118–33.

56. Bello FD, Lavorel S, Lavergne S, Albert CH, Boulangeat I, Mazel F, et al. Hierarchical effects of environmental filters on the functional structure of plant communities: a case study in the French Alps. Ecography. 2013 Mar; 36(3):393–402.

57. Li K, He JS, Zhang S, Lechowicz MJ. Grazing increases functional richness but not functional divergence in Tibetan alpine meadow plant communities. Biodiversity and Conservation. 2016 Nov; 25(12):2441–52.

58. Biswas SR, Mallik AU, Braithwaite NT, Biswas PL. Effects of disturbance type and microhabitat on species and functional diversity relationship in stream-bank plant communities. Forest ecology and management. 2019 Jan 15; 432:812–22.

59. Zuo X, Zhao S, Cheng H, Hu Y, Wang S, Yue P, et al. Functional diversity response to geographic and experimental precipitation gradients varies with plant community type. Functional Ecology. 2021 Sep; 35(9):2119–32.

60. Shovon TA, Rozendaal DM, Gagnon D, Gendron F, Vetter M, Vanderwel MC. Plant communities on nitrogen-rich soil are less sensitive to soil moisture than plant communities on nitrogen-poor soil. Journal of Ecology. 2020 Jan; 108(1):133–44.

61. Griffin-Noilan RJ, Blumenthal DM, Collins SL, Farkas TE, Hoffman AM, Mueller KE, et al. Shifts in plant functional composition following long-term drought in grasslands. Journal of Ecology. 2019 Sep; 107(5):2133–48.

62. Jäschke Y, Heberling G, Wesche K. Environmental controls override grazing effects on plant functional traits in Tibetan rangelands. Functional Ecology. 2020 Mar; 34(3):747–60.

63. Ebeling A, Rzanny M, Lange M, Eisenhauer N, Hertzog LR, Meyer ST, et al. Plant diversity induces shifts in the functional structure and diversity across trophic levels. Oikos. 2018 Feb; 127(2):208–19.

64. Thakur D, Chawla A. Functional diversity along elevational gradients in the high altitude vegetation of the western Himalaya. Biodiversity and Conservation. 2019 Jul; 28(8):1977–96.

65. De Bello F, Thuiller W, Leplé J, Choler P, Clément JC, Macek P, et al. Partitioning of functional diversity reveals the scale and extent of trait convergence and divergence. Journal of Vegetation Science. 2009 Jun; 20(3):475–86.
66. Ebeling A, Pompe S, Baade J, Eisenhauer N, Hillebrand H, Proulx R, et al. A trait-based experimental approach to understand the mechanisms underlying biodiversity–ecosystem functioning relationships. Basic and Applied Ecology. 2014 May 1; 15(3):229–40.

67. Pillar VD, Blanco CC, Müller SC, Sosinski EE, Joner F, Duarte LD. Functional redundancy and stability in plant communities. Journal of Vegetation Science. 2013 Sep; 24(5):963–74.

68. Wang C, Jiang K, Liu J, Zhou J, Wu B. Moderate and heavy Solidago canadensis L. invasion are associated with decreased taxonomic diversity but increased functional diversity of plant communities in East China. Ecological Engineering. 2018 Mar 1; 112:55–64.

69. Greenop A, Woodcock BA, Outhwaite CL, Carvell C, Pywell RF, Mancini F, et al. Patterns of invertebrate functional diversity highlight the vulnerability of ecosystem services over a 45-year period. Current Biology. 2021 Oct 25; 31(20):4627–34. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2021.07.080 PMID: 34411527

70. Rao CR. Diversity and dissimilarity coefficients: a unified approach. Theoretical population biology. 1982 Feb 1; 21(1):24–43.