Editorial

Merging the puzzle cards of biodiversity in a community-oriented perspective

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Community ecology is a rapidly expanding and rich subfield of ecology. Ecologists investigate the factors that influence biodiversity, community structure, and the distribution and abundance of species. These factors include interactions with the abiotic world and the diverse array of interactions that occur between species, often in very surprisingly ways.

In a rapidly and sometimes alarming changing world biodiversity is facing several threats (Nawaz et al., 2020). Anyway, the outstanding resilience capacities are among the most surprising aspects of the emergent properties of natural ecosystems. Dealing with plants, animal and/or microbial communities from terrestrial, marine or freshwater systems is not an easy task (Cadotte et al., 2018), but nowadays there are several instruments and tools at scientists and researcher's disposal.

There are many subject areas we can focus on: community-based ecological theory; modelling of ecological communities; community-based ecophysiology; temporal dynamics, including succession; trophic interactions, including food webs and competition; spatial pattern analysis, including scaling issues; community patterns of species richness and diversity; ecological communities sampling; data analysis through different methods. In any case the reliability and the accessibility of all our data is essential in order to minimize the sampling efforts and to be able to rely on strong historical baselines and reference data to be shared and on easily accessible platforms. There are always many paradoxes in learning complex issues and even more complex is the challenge of learning for decision-making. Therefore, is essential a deep knowledge to fill the gaps for a better informed decision making process (Keijser, 2020). Indeed, there is no relevant ecological study which do not consider the ecosystem in a holistic perspective and the most exhaustive is our dataset and wealth of knowledge, the strongest the conclusions of our works and scientific contributions.

It is a pleasure and a great honor to be in charge of writing this editorial contribution and I'm confident that interesting studies will come very soon from the vibrant and skillful community ecologists around the world. Really looking forward for several contributions and insightful research from community ecologists focusing on this field of science, all the bests!

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