General plant strategies and functions in wetlands: global trait-based analyses

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STELLINGEN

(Propositions)

Behorend bij het proefschrift:

General plant strategies and functions in wetlands: global trait-based analyses

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1. Wetland adaptive traits and leaf economics traits should both be considered when we apply trait-based approaches to wetland ecology (this thesis).
2. The fast-return strategies of wetland plants may compensate for adaptation costs to the stressful environment and the relatively high herbivore risk in wetlands (this thesis).
3. The driving mechanisms for wetland plant adaptive traits are complex and highly case-specific. This provides challenges for future wetland vegetation modelling (this thesis).
4. The cheap and flexible adaptive strategies allow wetland plants to survive and prosper in a wide variety of wetland habitats (this thesis).
5. Trait-based approaches are more powerful to represent plant performances and strategies than traditionally emphasized plant functional types (PFTs) (van Bodegom *et al.*, 2014; Verheijen *et al.*, 2016).
6. We need careful ecological considerations to manage wetlands and optimize the balance between ecosystem services provision and greenhouse gases emissions (Zedler & Kercher, 2005; Mitsch *et al.*, 2013).
7. The unique properties of wetlands make them ideal natural laboratories to test and evaluate the trait-based theory originated in non-wetland terrestrial ecosystems (Moor *et al.*, 2017).
8. Despite their unique features, wetland habitat types across the globe share essential processes. A holistic understanding of this conceptual unity will advance scholars within their own areas of specialization (Keddy, 2010).
9. *"Simplex sigillum veri"* (Simplicity is the sign of truth). Motto of the Dutch physician, chemist and botanist Herman Boerhaave (1668-1738).