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Global distribution patterns of mycorrhizal associations: abundance, environmental drivers and ecological impacts

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STELLINGEN

(Propositions)

Behorend bij het proefschrift

Global distribution patterns of mycorrhizal associations

van **Milagros Barceló**

1. At a global scale, the distribution patterns of plants featuring different mycorrhizal types is mainly driven by climate (this thesis).
2. A shift in attention towards a belowground perspective is crucial to complete our understanding of mycorrhizal impacts on ecosystems (this thesis).
3. The use of relative abundance of a given type of mycorrhizal vegetation as a proxy of specific biogeochemical syndromes is not applicable in all environmental contexts (this thesis).
4. Understanding the abundance patterns of key mycorrhizal functional traits might be of a greater relevance than focusing on traditional mycorrhizal types (this thesis).
5. Mycorrhizal associations are key components of terrestrial ecosystems, whose influence goes far beyond plant nutrition (Van der Heijden, 2002).
6. Quantifying mycorrhizal biomass across ecosystems is key to determine the global mycorrhizal impact on ecosystem functioning (Tedersoo, 2017).
7. Evaluating differences between mycorrhizal types on ecosystem functioning across biomes remains a major knowledge gap (Tedersoo and Bahram, 2019).
8. A better mechanistic understanding of mycorrhizal mediation of ecosystem processes will help to predict, and possibly ameliorate, some of the consequences of the human-induced environmental changes that we currently face (Johnson, 2013).
9. The importance of soil microbiomes in preserving a healthy soil for future generations cannot be overstated (Jansson & Hofmockel, 2020).
10. Soils are extremely complex systems that make soil ecology a difficult but fascinating field of research (Baldrian, 2019).