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Above- and belowground interactions in *Jacobaea vulgaris*: zooming in and zooming out from a plant-soil feedback perspective

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

Above- and belowground interactions in *Jacobaea vulgaris*: zooming in and zooming out from a plant-soil feedback perspective

1. Plant age/size is a major driver of intraspecific variation in the effects of plants on the soil microbial community (this thesis).
2. Root-associated bacteria cause intraspecific variation in root morphological traits of *Jacobaea vulgaris* (this thesis).
3. The competitiveness of *Jacobaea vulgaris* increases in the presence of plant feeding nematodes (this thesis).
4. In the field, seedling recruitment of *Jacobaea vulgaris* is not driven by plant-soil feedbacks (this thesis).
5. The role of plant-soil feedback in plant species coexistence depends on the host-specificity of soil microorganisms.
6. Steering soil microbiomes involves not only the processes associated with selecting microbiomes with specific functions (“selection”) but also encompasses random changes in microbial population sizes (“ecological drift”) and the movement of microbes (“dispersal”).
7. Connecting ecological theories to practical application has greater value than examining theories at local scales.
8. A negative side effect of the renewed emphasis on biodiversity is that the utilization of single plant species to test ecological concepts is downgraded.
9. The Dutch saying “een goed begin is het halve werk” (a good start is half the work) certainly applies to a PhD trajectory.
10. Embracing regular meetings helps overcome procrastination.

Xiangyu Liu

Leiden, 15th May, 2024