apl. Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Monika Wulf

Position: Head of Working Group "Biotic Forest-Agriculture Interactions"
Professor for Vegetation Ecology (Univ. Potsdam)

Academic education and scientific degrees

10/2006	Venia Legendi for Vegetation Ecology, University of Potsdam
02/2005	Venia Legendi for Ecology, University of Cottbus
09/2004	Habilitation in Ecology (Dr. rer.nat habil.), University of Cottbus
1986 – 1991	PhD in Biological Science (Vegetation Ecology) University of Bremen
1979 – 1986	Diploma in Biological Science

Professional experience

Since 2010	Extraordinary Professorship for Vegetation Ecology, University of Potsdam
2004 – 2005	Deputy Professorship (C4/W3) in Landscape Ecology, University of Münster
Since 1992	Scientific employee at the ZALF e.V. Müncheberg

Research Profile

Background
- Vegetation Ecology
- Landscape Ecology
- Botany (vascular plants and mosses)

Research Activities
- **FLEUR:** Within the European network FLEUR, I am involved in several projects that are concerned with the dynamics of forest plant species in a changing environment. We use integrated approaches of observational studies along spatio-temporal gradients with experiments, but also extensive databases to improve our understanding of species and community responses to global change. Finally, the FLEUR network is conducting cross-species synthesis work to quantify the functional role of forest herbs.

- **forestREplot:** This is a database of forest herb layer resurvey plots, spread across the temperate zones of the globe. My contribution is not only numerous repeat surveys in forests of the North German lowlands, but also sampling (soil samples, plant material) and provision of supplementary data (e.g. game densities, climate data for joint international publications. The database is used to quantify changes in herb layer composition and forest functioning, and to assess the effects of global environmental changes such as nitrogen deposition and climate change.

Resurveys of historical vegetation plots are invaluable to document patterns of change in community composition and diversity. They are also useful for better understanding impacts of multiple and interacting global-change drivers.

- **INPEDIV:** In the interdisciplinary joint project INPEDIV, we are investigating consequences of organic and conventional farming for biodiversity in protected areas. By use of traditional methods and new technologies (e.g. Meta-Barcoding), we are examining the effects of agricultural practices, the land use history and landscape matrix on a broad range of taxa across trophic levels (vegetation, soil invertebrates, flying and ground-dwelling arthropods, insectivorous vertebrates). In this collaborative project, I am leading the work package on vegetation with the objectives of (i) comparing the α-, β- and γ-diversity of vegetation between conventional and organic farming in the two study regions (Eifel, North Rhine-Westphalia and Uckermark, Brandenburg) and (ii) investigating relationships between the occurrence of insect (groups) and the vegetation or landscape structures ("matrix"). Finally, possible causes for lower species numbers in conventional farming compared to organic farming will be discussed.

- **DivGut:** The main objective of the project is to assess the potential contribution of selected former manor parks to the conservation of forest-typical plant species diversity in the Prignitz (NW Brandenburg). For this purpose, comparative floristic-vegetation-ecological surveys of 30 manor parks with 30 semi-natural deciduous forest areas of approximately the same size were carried out in order to examine to what extent manor parks contain true forest species of near-natural forests and thus contribute to the conservation of the diversity of true forest species.

Functions and memberships

2016 – 2024   Member of the DFG Review Board 207 Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine

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