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Quantifying the magnitude of species richness and its turnover on ecosystem productivity by the rate of N inputs in a temperate grassland

> Yunhai Zhang *et al*. Thursday, June 09, 2016

### 1. Background



Reactive nitrogen deposition has increased and contributed to widespread changes in the structure and functioning of natural and management ecosystems.

### Projections on N deposition



**Global** average atmospheric N deposition will continue to increase as increasing global N fertilizer production and consumption (data from FAO 2015) due to N fertilizer is the most relative factor to be associated with atmospheric N deposition.

### **Projections on global N deposition**

Galloway et al. 2004 Biogeochemistry







Smith *et al.*, 2009 *Ecology* 

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#### Suddenly.....











#### Low frequency (fewer times)

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### Does exist same effect on plant diversity, ecological processes and ecosystem functioning?

Low frequency (fewer times)

## 2. Experiment

#### ✓ Replicate

#### ✓ The rate of N addition

#### ✓ The frequency of N addition

#### How many replicates?



At least 10 plots for every treatment.

#### The level of nitrogen addition





#### The frequency of nitrogen addition

- Two frequency of nitrogen addition,
  - 1). 2 N additions yr<sup>-1</sup> (twice year<sup>-1</sup>)
  - 2). 12 N additions yr<sup>-1</sup> (monthly)
- Nine rates of nitrogen addition,

(0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 50 g N m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>)

• Control and mowing,

(mowing in August for simulation hay management in the region)



#### In total, 38 Treatments; 380 Plots



M2N50

M2N3

12N1

CK

2N10

M12N50

12N20

2N5

### 3. Results

- 3.1 Species richness
- 3.2 Species gain and lose
- 3.3 Ecosystem ANPP
- 3.4 Species richness contributions to

ecosystem ANPP





### 3.1 Species richness



Rapid species loss at high rates and at low frequency of N additions.

### 3.2 Species gain and lose

Gains of species

**Species richness** 

**Losses of species** 







#### 3.2.1 Annual species gained and lost



The rate of N addition decreased new gained species and increased lost species.

#### 3.2.2 Cumulative species gained and lost



Fewer new species gained at low frequency of N addition.

### 3.3 Ecosystem ANPP



(Zhang et al., 2015 Scientific Reports)

#### The rate rather than the frequency of N addition affects productivity.

#### 3.4.1 Effect of N on ecosystem ANPP



- Nitrogen enrichment directly and indirectly affected ecosystem production.
- Direct effect was smaller than the indirect effect as all rates of N as a whole.

#### 3.4.2 Species richness effect



Effect on ecosystem production from species richness was negative with diminishing return under N-enriched.

#### 3.4.3 Species richness contributions



### 4. Conclusions

Both pulse- and cumulative-effects of N affected ecological processes and functioning.

The contributions to ecosystem production via new gained species decreased with the increasing N addition rate, while the contributions through inert (persisting) species was relative large and constant.

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