

Ecography

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Supplementary material

Appendix 1

Preliminary work for this manuscript began in March of 2015. At that time data were downloaded in a similar manner to that presented in the main document. Table A1 shows the species coverage of each dataset at that time. While the data downloads of 2015 and 2018 are not perfectly comparable (due to small changes in data handling/cleaning both by us and by the databases), the changes in species coverage over time are indicative of the relative rate at which shortfalls in our knowledge of plant diversity are being addressed.

Table A1: Coverage of accepted plant species in the three databases in data downloads from March 2015

	Genbank	GBIF	TRY	All three
Genbank	97921	81988	42832	
GBIF	81988	217681	65535	
TRY	42832	65535	74327	
All three				39650

Appendix 2

Venn diagram showing the relative size and overlap of data used by Zanne et al. (2014) and Díaz et al. (2016). The species were included in these studies because there was sufficient data available for their particular research aims. Total number of species for Zanne et al. (2014): 28,838. Total number of species for Díaz et al. (2016): 2214. Only 1713 species were included in both studies, highlighting the fact that data sufficiency is entirely context dependant. Most of the species that were included in these studies fall within out "broadly-covered" category: 25,235 (79 %) of those used by Zanne et al. (2014) and 1,952 (88 %) of those used by Díaz et al. (2016). This demonstrates how species that are broadly-covered across databases become more and more studied over time relative to patchily- and poorly-covered species, and how closing the Venn shortfall will impact the nature of the species-pools which are suitable for inclusion in future global plant research projects.

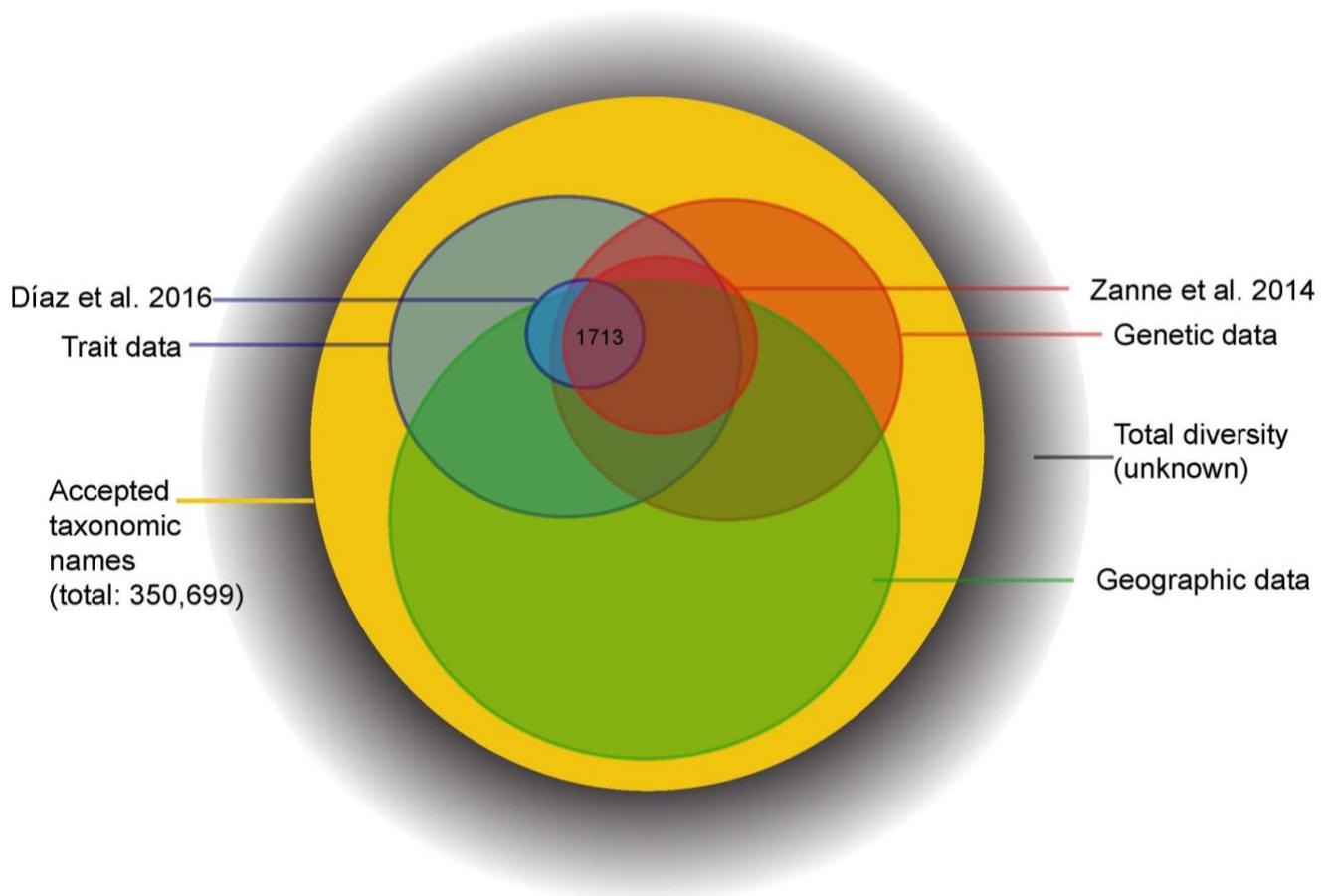


Figure A1: Relative sizes and overlap of the data for which there were sufficient data for inclusion in Zanne et al. (2014) and Díaz et al. (2016).