



European Vegetation Archive

Data Request Form



To obtain data from the European Vegetation Archive (EVA), including the ReSurveyEurope Database, please first enquire the EVA database administrator Ilona Knollová (ikuzel@sci.muni.cz) whether the data that meet your needs are available. If they are, please fill in the form below and submit it to Ilona or another member of the EVA Coordinating Board (or ReSurveyEurope Board if you ask for data from the ReSurveyEurope Database).

- Applicant's name:

Abbie Jones (PhD Candidate), Laura Pollock (Principal Supervisor)

- Applicant's institutional address:

Department of Biology, McGill University, 1205 avenue Docteur Penfield, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

- Applicant's e-mail:

abbie.jones@mail.mcgill.ca

- Project title:

EXT. EVA PROJ. 92: Sampling Biases Overpower Biodiversity-Scale Relationships of European Plants

- Are you asking for core EVA data (non-repeated vegetation surveys) or for ReSurveyEurope data (repeated vegetation surveys)?

Core EVA data only – no need for repeated vegetation surveys.

- Brief description of the aims and methods of the study:

This demand is an extension of our previous data usage for EVA Project 92, initially titled: "A comprehensive baseline biodiversity distribution layer of the European flora".

A manuscript is currently completed with the following abstract:

While citizen science represents a golden opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the distribution of biodiversity worldwide, sampling biases remain pervasive. Here, we use biodiversity data from ~10,000 species of the European flora to assess the influence of sampling biases on modelled species richness patterns across three scales: 1x1km, 10x10km, and 100x100km. Modeling with species occurrence data and vegetation survey plots as our comparison point, we show that strong sampling biases remain within modelled species richness at all scales even when bias-correction is addressed. Importantly, we highlight a disconnect between model performance metrics and patterns of richness, where cross-dataset transferability of models was good even when species richness estimates were negatively correlated between datasets. In addition to opportunistically collected and citizen science data, systematic surveys remain essential, especially for strongly biased regions. If standard bias-corrections remain indispensable and insufficient for modelling European biodiversity, we suggest that such results are likely applicable worldwide.



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However, during last rounds of co-author review, Dr. Milan Chytrý suggested that our results & analyses, currently based on 2020 data, should be updated to match the substantial changes in data content that EVA has experienced in the last six years. We thus seek an updated version of our current database in order to simply update analyses in our existing pipeline and adjust the manuscript accordingly.

- Will someone else be involved in data editing or analysis in addition to the applicant?

Only A. Jones will clean data and provide data analysis as part of her PhD thesis.

- Estimated time of delivery of results (e.g., manuscript submission):

Require 1-2 months of modelling analyses, and 1-2 months of updating the manuscript according to new results. Ideally, would like manuscript submitted to co-authors before the holidays in December.

- Geographic area needed (e.g., countries or range of geographic coordinates):

Our analyses are restricted to mainland Europe + UK + Ireland, composed of the following countries & territories:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Guernsey, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Jersey, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

- Do you need plots to be georeferenced? If so, what is the minimum accuracy of plot location (in metres or kilometres) needed for your project?

Yes, utilized plots will require geographic coordinates preferably at a minimum accuracy of ~10 km.

- Vegetation types needed (syntaxa):

All terrestrial vegetation.

- Other data selection criteria:

N/A

- Envisaged publications:

The resulting biodiversity estimates from this first project are to be the backbone of at least two more chapters of A. Jones' thesis, both pertaining to spatial prioritization. First, a paper comparing the impact of dataset & SDM modelling choice (GBIF vs. EVA) on biodiversity-based prioritized areas in Europe, estimated using Zonation software. Second, an applied paper pinpointing optimized area for protection in Europe based on multiple priorities – including plant biodiversity

- Data deposition. Some journals require data used for the analysis to be stored in a public repository to ensure the repeatability of the analysis. According to EVA Rules, you are not allowed to store the original



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vegetation-plot data obtained from EVA. However, if you plan to publish in such a journal, you may deposit a reduced EVA-derived dataset that (1) would make it possible to repeat the analysis published in the paper and (2) does not contain any information not used in the analysis. For example, such a dataset can contain only a subset of species (e.g., only angiosperms or only neophytes), or replace species names with codes, or replace species cover values with presences/absences, or remove all the header data, or replace the exact plot coordinates by coarse grid-cell coordinates etc. If you plan to deposit reduced information from vegetation plots, please describe here what might be deposited. If the project developed so that you needed to deposit more information than specified here, you would need to ask specific permission from the Custodians of the EVA databases used in your analysis before the dataset is deposited.

In order to replicate our results, which are summed modelled species distribution estimates, all cleaned EVA-plots would be required. Therefore, we will not publish in a journal requiring all data to be public. We will select a journal with whom we can simply provide a data availability statement stating that our used data are private, and that applications can be sent to the EVA.

We will however make our SDM-based richness estimates available in a repository.

- Plant trait data from the TRY consortium. If you plan to combine your analysis of vegetation-plot data with plant trait data, you can also request a dataset of 18 gap-filled traits for a large number of plant taxa prepared by the TRY consortium. These traits include Leaf area, Specific leaf area, Leaf fresh mass, Leaf dry matter content, Leaf C, Leaf N, Leaf P, Leaf N per area, Leaf N:P ratio, Leaf delta15N, Seed mass, Seed length, Seed number per reproductive unit, Dispersal unit length, Plant height, Stem specific density, Stem conduit density, and Conduit element length. This dataset can be provided to you by the EVA manager together with the vegetation-plot data. If you use this dataset, you must inform about your project the TRY data contributors who might be potentially interested and invite them as potential co-authors, assuming they will make an intellectual contribution to your paper. The list of the TRY data contributors will be sent to you together with the gap-filled trait dataset.

No

- Specification of the co-authorship arrangements in publications based on the requested data. Note that the EVA Rules recommend that co-authorship is offered to a representative of each database providing data that are particularly important for the project (e.g., a relatively large proportion of the final dataset used in the analyses or data from unique vegetation types or under-represented geographic areas). This database representative should be an expert in the topic of the project (not necessarily the custodian or deputy custodian), and this person should contribute to the project more than just by providing the existing data, e.g. by intellectual contribution to the concept of the paper, preparation of new data, or helping with data analysis, interpretation of the results or writing parts of the paper (see the IAVS Code of Professional Ethics: https://www.iavs.org/page/governance_code-of-professional-ethics). The project leader should enable active participation by regularly informing potential co-authors about the progress of the project from its early stage. The project leader should also make final co-authorship arrangements based on the real input of the individual contributors.

As of present, Milan Chytrý, Jesper Erenskjold Moeslund, & Jürgen Dengler are contributing collaborators in their roles as respective data custodians (opted in during our previous application). As of (previous) final rounds of cleaning, no other database constituted over 10% of our data used. However, as with our previous application & consistent with EVA rules, anyone with relevant expertise who'd like to contribute can contact us (abbie.jones@mail.mcgill.ca) about becoming a co-author, and we can evaluate and negotiate on a case-by-case basis.

- Eligibility of the applicant to receive EVA or ReSurveyEurope data. Specify to which EVA or ReSurveyEurope database the applicant has contributed; if the applicant is not the custodian or deputy



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custodian of an EVA or ReSurveyEurope database, give a name of a custodian or deputy custodian who supports this data request.

Our re-application was suggested by co-author Milan Chytrý.

- I agree with the terms of EVA Data Property and Governance Rules as approved on 26 May 2012 (<http://euroveg.org/download/eva-rules.pdf>).
- If I ask for ReSurveyEurope data, I agree with the terms of ReSurveyEurope Data Property and Governance Rules as approved on 6 April 2022 (<http://euroveg.org/download/resurveyeurope-rules.pdf>).
- In any result obtained based on EVA core data (non-repeated vegetation surveys), I will cite the EVA report article (Chytrý et al. 2016; <https://doi.org/10.1111/avsc.12191>). In any result obtained based on the ReSurveyEurope data (repeated vegetation surveys), I will cite the ReSurveyEurope report article as soon as it is published. In addition, I will cite individual source databases used in my project (if possible, in the list of References; if not possible, at least as a list of databases in the electronic supplementary material).
- If I ask for the plant trait data from TRY, I agree to invite to my project the TRY data contributors following the list received from the EVA database manager.

Montréal, Québec, CANADA

September 21st, 2026

Abbie Gail Jones

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