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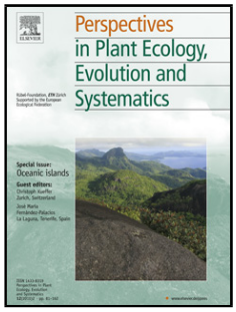

Title: The ecology of Central European tree species: Trait spectra, functional trade-offs, and ecological classification of adult trees

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The ecology of Central European tree species: Trait spectra, functional trade-offs, and ecological classification of adult trees

Running head: Functional traits of adult trees

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Highlights

- A unique trait database for Central European adult trees was compiled.
- The trait spectra of adult trees differ from those observed in seedlings and saplings
- Five, and not two, tree functional groups were distinguished

Abstract

Plant functional traits offer insights into the plant-environment relationship and may help to understand how plants influence ecosystem functions. Applying trait-based models on climate and land-use change to forests is often hindered by poor data quality, as many data are estimates and traits are often parameterized for juvenile and not adult trees. For advancing theory building