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## Species divergence and trait convergence in experimental plant community assembly.

Fukami T, Bezemer TM, Mortimer SR, van der Putten WH

*Ecol Lett* 2005 **8**:1283-1290 [[full text](#)] 
**Selected by** | Mathew Leibold

Evaluated 24 Aug 2007



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 ECOLOGY

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**This study shows that grassland communities that are initially sown with different species compositions remain divergent in species composition over 9 years but converge in the distribution of ecological traits.** This indicates that the assembly of communities is more strongly linked to the traits of species than to the particular species identities involved. Such evidence suggests that stronger mechanistic theories of community structure might be made if they focus more on traits and less on species than they have in the past.

**Competing interests:** None declared

Evaluated 24 Aug 2007

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