

Global Change and Biotic Interactions Ecology

How do global changes interact with biotic factors to affect plant biodiversity?

Group led by Assoc. Prof. Anu Eskelinen



Contact me!

Email: anu.eskelinen@oulu.fi

Website: <https://eskelinenresearch.com/>

Twitter: @EskelinenAnu



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My lab has **project work** and **MSc thesis** opportunities in the following project:

- Plant biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and global changes in metacommunities – Academy of Finland funded project in Åland Islands



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In the Åland Islands plant biodiversity project we study:

- Plant metacommunities: what is the influence of connectivity and habitat size, species' traits related to dispersal, competition, and herbivory, and environmental filtering on plant biodiversity?
- How do global change effects (drought, nutrient enrichment) on plant communities depend on habitat size, connectivity and herbivory?
- How is plant biodiversity related to ecosystem functioning in a metacommunity?
- Can seed banks, cryptic biodiversity reservoirs in the soil, rescue plant community diversity under global changes?
- What is the role of seed traits and other traits (photosynthetic capacity, stomatal conductance etc.) in dictating community responses to global changes?

