

Ekin Kaplan

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Education

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | 2018 | HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY - TURKEY

- BIOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE | 2021 | MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - TURKEY

- ECOLOGY

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY | 2022 – 01/11/2026 | UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA - AUSTRIA

- ECOLOGY

Research Experience

RESEARCH ASSISTANT | UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA | 2022-PRESENT

- Project: Assessing the trajectories of local plant community change
- Project: ReSurveyEurope: A database of resurveyed vegetation plots in Europe
- Project: Biological invasions: a global assessment of geographic distributions, long-term trends, and data gaps
- Project: The neglected importance of managing biological invasions for sustainable development

INTERN | HELMHOLTZ CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH | 2021 - 2022

- Project: Functional Redundancy changes in native and alien urban flora over three centuries.
- Task: Analyzing trait data of Halle, Germany flora that creates the functional redundancy and monitoring the changes across 1600's to this day through R programming. (Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Ingolf Kühn, Dr. Sonja Knapp)

COLLABORATOR | SENCKENBERG BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE RESEARCH CENTER | 2020 – 2022

- Project: DASCO: A workflow to downscale alien species checklists using occurrence records and to re-allocate species distributions across realms
- Project: Developing and applying scenarios of biological invasions for the 21st century (Alien Scenarios).
- Task: Creating a first record database for alien species and forming an open source workflow through techniques such as data mining, data extraction, data standardization, data visualization, data wrangling, R programming, API utilization, and GIS. (Supervisor: Dr. Hanno Seebens)

MASTER THESIS | METU BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION LABORATORY | 2018 – 2021

- Thesis: The Effect of Plant Diversity on Seedling Establishment of *Diplotaxis tenuifolia* in Central Anatolian Steppe.
- Task: Creating experimental plots with varying levels of reduced species richness and ground cover through manipulation of the local vegetation, followed by planting the “invader” species (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*) and then recording its fate as a function of native plant diversity. (Advisor: Prof. Dr. C. Can Bilgin, Co-Advisor: Prof. Dr. Çağatay Tavşanoğlu)

INTERN | HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY FUNCTIONAL ECOLOGY LABORATORY | 2016 – 2017

- Project: The dietary habits of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in the forests of western Black Sea region.

SKILLS

LANGUAGE

- English (IELTS 8.0), French (DELFB1), German (A2), Turkish (Native)

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Data Analysis, GIS (R), Data Wrangling, Data Visualization, Plot Sampling, Plant and Animal Identification, Greenhouse Management, Conservation Methods, Camera Trapping, Mark -Recapture

COMPUTER SKILLS

- R, Python, SPSS, SQL, Unix, Git, MS Office

Relevant Graduate Courses

- Biometry, Field Ecology, Plant Biodiversity Conservation, Biodiversity and Habitat Conservation, Advanced Plant Systematics, Community Ecology, Plant Physiology, Conservation Biology, SDMs

Attended Congresses

- VDSEE Symposium (Austria) (2024, 2025) (Poster and Oral Presentation)
- NEOBIOTA Conference (Estonia, Portugal) (2022, 2024) (Poster Presentation)
- Macroecology and Biogeography (Germany) (2023) (Poster Presentation)
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium (Turkey) (2015, 2018, 2019)
- 21. National Biology Congress (Turkey) (2012)

Certificates

- Introduction to Data Science – IBM ([Link](#))
- Data Science: Productivity Tools – Harvard University ([Link](#))
- Data Science: Visualization – Harvard University ([Link](#))
- Species Distribution Models with GIS & Machine Learning in R – Udemy ([Link](#))

Publications

- Sources of biases and uncertainty for studying temporal changes in species richness in local communities (TBD) (First Author)
- Assessing the trajectories of local plant community change: a literature review (Journal of Nature Conservation, 2026) (doi: 10.1016/j.jnc.2026.127419) (First Author)
- Biological invasions: a global assessment of geographic distributions, long-term trends, and data gaps (Biological Reviews, 2025) (doi: 10.1111/brv.70058) (Co-author)
- The neglected importance of managing biological invasions for sustainable development (People and Nature, 2024) (doi: 10.1002/pan3.10712) (Co-author)
- ReSurveyEurope: A database of resurveyed vegetation plots in Europe (Journal of Vegetation Science, 2024) (doi: 10.1111/jvs.13235) (Co-author)
- IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment: Chapter 2. Trends and status of alien and invasive alien species (Publisher: IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany) (Contributing Author)
- DASCO: A workflow to downscale alien species checklists using occurrence records and to re-allocate species distributions across realms (NeoBiota, 2022) (doi: 10.3897/neobiota.74.81082) (Co-Author)
- The effect of plant diversity and ground cover on seedling establishment of *Diplotaxis tenuifolia* (L.) DC. in the central anatolian steppe (Thesis) (Middle East Technical University) (2021) (Author)

Extracurricular Work and Skills

- Board of Science | Workers Party of Turkey | 2023 - Present
- Freelance Translator | Netflix | 2016 - 2018
- Translator | Aton Production | 2015 – 2018
- Editor (Ecology Section) | Metapolitik.net | 2020 – Present
- Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, Audacity, Fab Subtitler, Trados

References

PROF. FRANZ ESSL

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