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Must Read

F1000 Factor **6.0**

Lack of Evidence for 3/4 Scaling of Metabolism in Terrestrial Plants.

Li HT, Han XG, Wu JG

J Integ Plant Biol 2005 **47**: 1173-1183 [[order article](#)]

Selected by | Andrew Clarke

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Faculty Comments

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ECOLOGY



Controversial

Comments

In this intriguing paper, Hai-Tao Li and colleagues from Beijing present a thorough test of a key prediction of metabolic scaling theory in plants.

The results emphasise the variability that characterises much of biology, and cast doubt upon the value of broad relationships in attempting to capture this diversity of nature. The scaling theory of Geoffrey West, Jim Brown and Brian Enquist has generated much excitement, interest and controversy. Its promise of a broad mechanistic general theory for all biological scaling has stimulated numerous studies and critiques, and a vigorous debate continues. The debate has, however, largely centred on animals. Using a large set of measurements of tree productivity form across China, the authors demonstrate a significant heterogeneity in scaling relationships for trees across a range of forest types in China, and fail to confirm the predictions of the WBE model. For the abstract of this paper, please see <http://www.chineseplantscience.com/econtents1.asp?issue=3539>

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Andrew Clarke: Faculty of 1000 Biology, 21 Sep 2005 <http://www.f1000biology.com/article/nonpub121991/evaluation>