

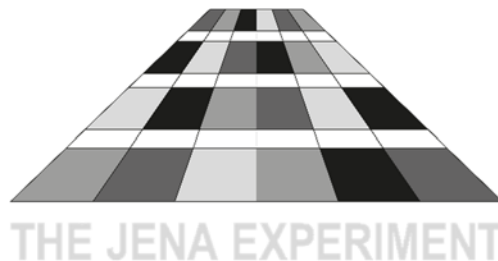


Topic for MSs Thesis

Plant diversity and seasonality influence extracellular polymeric substances and soil aggregate stability

The aggregation of soils is an important control for many soil processes. For example, it influences the aeration and infiltration capacity of soils and determines the susceptibility of soils to erosion. Thus, the stability of aggregates is a fundamental measure for soil stability. Soil aggregate stability is known to depend on plant community properties, as they influence the temporary and transient binding agents such as decomposed organic matter, fine roots, fungal hyphae, and extracellular polymeric substances (EPS). However, little is known about the importance of these drivers and their potential seasonal variability.

The focus of this MSc thesis will be to study aggregate stability and the amount of EPS as a function of plant diversity and seasonality. In this MSc thesis samplings within the Main Experiment (<https://the-jena-experiment.de/index.php/main-experiment/>) of the “Jena experiment” (<https://the-jena-experiment.de/>) will be realized.



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