Evidence for Rapid Evolution in Grasslands
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We tested whether selection for monoculture and mixture types occurred at an epigenetic and/or genetic level in nine plant species growing in mixtures and monocultures for 12 years.

Our results show selection for monoculture and mixture types occurred. Plants with a selection history in mixtures performed better than plants with a selection history in monoculture and showed higher between species variation in newly assembled mixtures.

Plants within species could be classified from either monoculture or mixture selection history based on their methylation pattern and single nucleotide polymorphisms using epiGBS (van Gurp et al., 2015).

We found evidence for rapid evolution in grassland species at both a genetic and epigenetic level!

The next step is to examine which driver is stronger and how these changes relate to phenotypic differences within species.

Want to know more? Please get in touch!
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