Stellingen

Behorend bij het proefschrift

"Cheating Belowground Interactions"

van Sofia Gomes

1. Its global geographic distribution suggests that mycoheterotrophy is an evolutionary viable trait for plants to survive in forest biomes (this thesis).

2. Partner choice of mycoheterotrophic plants is influenced by a complex interplay between mycoheterotrophic host plants, mycorrhizal fungi, autotrophic host plants, and environmental factors. We have only a limited understanding of these processes. (this thesis).

3. Mycorrhizal symbiosis stability can potentially influence the outcome of plant-plant interactions. This remains a largely unexplored topic (this thesis).

4. Mycoheterotrophic plants can exhibit varying degree of specificity in their fungal interactions depending on the species, but mostly they are highly specialized (this thesis).

5. Mycoheterotrophy offers a natural example for the existence of different cooperative strategies along the mutualism-antagonism continuum that spans the mycorrhizal symbiosis (Merckx 2013).

6. Symbiotic relationships with various mycorrhizal and saprotrophic fungi can compensate for the loss of photosynthesis in plants (Ellers et al 2012).

7. Mycoheterotrophy is the most common, but least understood, mode of parasitism by plants (Leake & Cameron 2010).

8. Whether mycoheterotrophs have measurable costs to their fungal hosts remains a fascinating question but a methodological challenge (Bidartondo 2005).

9. Insights in the properties and functions of belowground microbial communities are essential for our understanding of ecosystem dynamics (general, Baldrian 2017).

10. Symbiotic interactions have played a major role in shaping the evolution of biodiversity (general, Moran 2006).