

Abstract

Arbuscular mycorrhiza is a symbiotic interaction of vascular plants and arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi from subphylum Glomeromycotina. Currently, it is difficult to predict the population dynamics of AM fungal communities, mainly because little is known about their life-history strategies. However, it is clear that AM fungi differ in a range of traits. Physiological and ecological differences between AM fungi can affect the outcome of their competition as well as cooperation with the plant symbiont and the successional dynamics of the whole community. In order to advance our knowledge of AM fungal life-history strategies, it is crucial to deepen our understanding of the traits and factors that modify interactions between the symbionts. This bachelor thesis is designed as a literature survey aimed at summarizing knowledge about functional traits of AM fungi and the impact of these traits on their life-history strategies.

Key words: arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, life-history strategies, host plant, traits, mycelium, colonization, competition, community, succession