



THOMAS DEOLA

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Germany

OBJECTIVES

I'm focusing on cliff and functional vegetation ecology. I love seasonality. I like to combine field activity during the growing season with more reflective activities of teaching, data analysis, reading and writing during winter time.

Exploring the natural world in both practical and theoretical ways is simply fantastic.

SKILLS

- GIS software (ArcMap)
- R software
- Knowledge of cliff, alpine and mediterranean flora
- Experience in field activity
- Excellent English, basic German, Italian mothertongue
- Nature photography
- Birdwatcher

CURRENT POSITION

DOCTORAL STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH – BAYNAT - GEOECOLOGY

Alpine ecology – Disturbance ecology department

08/2023 ~ 07/2026

Inland cliff vegetation: assembly rules, stress tolerance, functional traits, abiotic drivers and facilitation processes climate-change effects on grasslands; transdisciplinary approaches.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Master degree (Dottore Magistrale) - International Double Degree Program in Environmental

Management of Mountain Areas

Free University of Bozen and Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck

10/2021 ~ 07/2023 (110L/110)

- Theoretical and practical knowledge of botany, nature conservation, ecology (plant, soil, climate change), biodiversity, hydrology, hydromorphology, wildlife management, forest science and hydrogeological risk management in mountain environments. Scientific presentation and public speaking. Data analysis, scientific writing.

Master thesis award Stelvio National Park - Val di Sole study center 2024.

Title of the thesis: Effects of nature conservation on scrub vegetation in two biogeographically contrasting protected areas.

Master degree (Laurea Magistrale) in Energy Engineering

Free University of Bozen and University of Trento

10/2012 ~ 11/2015 (107/110)

- Physics, maths, thermodynamics, renewable resources, modeling, design of renewable energy thermal and power plants

Bachelor's (Laurea Triennale) in Environmental engineering

University of Trento

09/2007 ~ 10/2011 (100/110)

- Physics, maths, thermodynamics, chemistry informatics, Ecology, hydrology, GIS software



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Data Visualization in R Using ggplot2 & Friends, Statistics Globe online course, Joachim Schork, around 3 weeks course, 2025-ongoing.
- Webinar for IAVS young scientists "Writing scientific papers in Vegetation Science", M. Chytrý, 01/28/2026 - participant
- Exchange student University of Siena, Life science department (06/04/2025-10/05/2025)
- Early Career Researcher seminar on Arctic/alpine plant trait ecology, Nordic Ecological Society OIKOS (Online), Lecturers: R. Gya, A. Björkman, J. Kemppinen, D. Christiansen, S. Geange, N. Artz, K. Björnsdóttir, 01-02/10/2024 - participant
- Scientific School in Quantitative Ecology at Wallenfels (DE) Seminar House of the University of Bayreuth. Lecturers: M. Steinbauer, A. Macháč, O. Mottl, F. Gaiser, A. Walentowitz, G. Mathes. University of Bayreuth, IMIC Czech Academy of Sciences, Charles University Prague, University of Zurich, 23-28/09/2024 - participant
- Alpine Plant Ecology course at ALPFOR research station, Furkapass, Switzerland. Lecturers: E. Hiltbrunner, C. Körner, S. Rumpf, L. Dietrich. University of Basel, 14-20/07/2024. Poster on Heat resistance of Alpine plants.
- International TransPlant Network Workshop (3 days): project leaders of plant-soil transplant experiments around the world shared experiences, drafted papers and developed roadmaps for future analysis using available databases, Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine, Grenoble, 22-24 May 2024
- Guest student at the University of Bayreuth, department of Disturbance Ecology, June 2023
- Workshop (20 hours) on "Introduction to the analysis of vegetation data with R", Italian Botanical Society, December 2022 - participant

WORK IN PROGRESS

- **Deola T.**, Angiolini C., Bonari G., Bricca A., de Simone L., Lecher M., Juan Lorite, Paulus S., Jentsch A., Vascular plant communities of inland cliff faces: a review. Submitted *Ecological Monographs*
- **Deola T.**, Paulus S., Angiolini C., Bonari G., Bricca A., Candini F., de Simone L., Juan Lorite, Zangari G., Steinbauer M., Jentsch A., The context dependence of community assembly on inland cliffs. Submitted *Functional ecology*
- Sass O., Bauer U., Jentsch A., **Deola T.**, How does biotic weathering work? Influence of alpine plants on rock temperature and rock moisture. Minor revision *BioGeosciences*.
- **Deola T.**, Arzt N., Conradi T., von Heßberg A., Schuchardt M. A., Wolff P., Jentsch A., Sensitivity of mountain plant communities to warming, drought and potential novel competitors revealed by a reciprocal translocation experiment in the European Alps. Under review *Journal of Vegetation Science*
- **Deola T.**, Fehler T., Jentsch A., Feulner M., Thomas D., *Polypodium vulgare* on the rocks: the role of mosses in fern shaping habitats.
- Harris T, Bonari G., **Deola T.**, ... Klimešová T., Rhizome or rootstock? Can we mine regional Floras for trait data on perennating organs?

1st AUTHOR IN PUBLICATIONS

Deola T.



- Bricca A., **Deola T.**, Zerbe S., Bagella S., Riviaccio G., Wellstein C., Bonari G., (2024). Higher levels of protection do not consistently improve habitat quality: insights from Mediterranean and Alpine shrublands. *Biological conservation*, 293, 110571. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2024.110571>

CO-AUTHOR IN PUBLICATIONS

- Worthy S. J., Luong J. C., Wainwright B. E., Barcu A. C., Elwood E. C., Gujral A. K., ... **Deola T.**, ... Phillips R. P., Funk J. L., (2026), Growth form and lifespan mediate the role of traits in short-term drought response: A global study of herbaceous species, *Nature Ecology and Evolution*
- Angiolini C., Ardenghi N., Bonari G., ..., **Deola T.**, ..., (2025), Contributi per una flora vascolare di Toscana. XVII (1159–1235), *Atti della Società Toscana di Scienze Naturali, Memorie, Serie B.*
- Bektaş, B., Chisholm, C., Egelkraut, D., Lynn, J., Block, S., **Deola T.**, ... & Alexander, J. (2024). Colonization and extinction lags drive non-linear responses to warming in mountain plant communities across the Northern Hemisphere. *Ecography*, e07378.
- Abdalla, K., Schierling, L., Sun, Y., Schuchardt, M. A., Jentsch, A., **Deola T.**, ... & Meyer, N. (2024). Temperature sensitivity of soil respiration declines with climate warming in subalpine and alpine grassland soils. *Biogeochemistry*, 1-15.
- De Giuli M., Winkler M., **Deola T.**, Henschel J., Sass O., Wolff P., Jentsch A., Arrested succession on fire affected slopes in krummholz zone and subalpine forest of the northern limestone Alps (2024). *Diversity*, 16(7), 366.

POSTERS

- Anke J., Kudernatsch T., Maike B., Di Musciano M., **Deola T.**, ... Wolff, P., Pattern in alpine summit vegetation in the Northern Alps (Nationalpark Berchtesgaden, Germany) explained by variation in microclimate, soil temp and soil moisture, International Mountain Conference, Innsbruck, Austria, September 14 – 18 2025
- Fanfarillo E., Angiolini C., ... **Deola T.**, & Maccherini, S. (2024). Uniqueness matters: patterns of α and β -diversity highlight conservation priorities for plant communities in Italian agricultural landscapes.
- **Deola T.**, Bricca A., Riviaccio G., Zerbe S., Wellstein C., Bagella S., Bonari G., (2023). Effects of nature conservation on scrub vegetation in two biogeographically contrasting protected areas. Acts of the 2° Conference of Young Botanists (Cybo 2023). *Notiziario della Società Botanica Italiana* 7(1), 30. 2023, ISSN 2532-8034. 4th best poster of the conference.

TALK IN CONFERENCES or WORKSHOPS

- Are inland cliffs extreme plant habitats? **Deola T.**, Angiolini C., Bauer U., Bonari G., Bricca A., Candini F., ... Jentsch A., BayCEER Workshop, Bayreuth, Germany, October 9 2025
- Inland cliffs call for plant conservation efforts and new research in vegetation ecology, **Deola T.**, Angiolini C., Bonari G., Bricca A., Candini F., de Simone L., M., Lecher M., Lorite J., Paulus S., Steinbauer M., Thomas D., Zangari G., Jentsch A., International Mountain Conference, Innsbruck, Austria, September 14 – 18 2025



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- Inland cliffs call for plant and vegetation insights, **Deola T.**, Audorff V., Angiolini C., Bonari G., Bricca A., de Simone L., Lecher M., Juan Lorite, Paulus S., Steinbauer M., Wolff P., Jentsch A., Annual Meeting of German High Mountain Researchers 2025, Waischenfeld, Germany, May 16 – 18 2025
- Novel competitors to high elevation plant communities revealed by an upslope translocation experiment across the European Alps, **Deola**, Arzt, von Hessberg, Wolff & Jentsch, Annual meeting of the ARGE Vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung and German High Mountain Researchers 2024, 07-09 June 2024, Hindelang, Germany
- SUSALPS & TRANSALPS, two multi-year transplant experiments, **Deola**, von Hessberg, Niu, Giestowt, Wilfahrt, Berauer, Schuchardt, Arzt, Ruethers, Bradler, Terry, Wolff, Wanke & Jentsch, TransPlant Workshop, 21-23 May 2024, Grenoble, France
- Conservation priorities across ecosystems prone to climate warming, weather extremes and disturbances, **Deola**, von Hessberg & Jentsch, 52nd Annual Meeting of The Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, 12-16 September 2023, Leipzig, Germany.

CO-AUTHOR IN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- How does biotic weathering work? Influence of alpine plants on rock temperature and rock moisture. Sass O., Bauer U., Jentsch A., **Deola T.**, Annual Meeting of German High Mountain Researchers 2025, Waischenfeld, Germany, May 16 – 18 2025
- Influence of environmental and structural features on the understory of *Pinus nigra* old-established plantations in northeastern Alps, Fellin H., Bricca A., **Deola T.**, Ciaramella D., Bonari G., Acts of the 2° Conference of Young Botanists (Cybo 2023). Notiziario della Società Botanica Italiana 7(1), 30. 2023, ISSN 2532-8034
- An integrated approach to evaluate nature conservation in protected areas, Bricca A., **Deola T.**, Riviaccio G., Zerbe S., Wellstein C., Bagella S, Bonari G., 55th SISV International Conference-Vegetation science and global changes: scenarios, challenges and innovation - L'Aquila, June 16 – 17 2022

FIELD WORK

- Mediterranean calcareous inland cliffs with chasmophytic vegetation (Tuscany, Italy, 2025)
- Coastal, evergreen forests and upland vegetation of the macaronesian region (MIREN trail, La Palma, Canary Island, 2025)
- Nival and alpine calcareous vegetation on 3 mountain tops (GLORIA site in Berchtesgaden National Park, European Alps, Germany, 2024)
- Alpine grasslands in mixed calcareous and acidic soils (Furkapass, Switzerland, 2024)
- Subalpine pasture – Seslerion & Nardion (Brunnenkopf, Ammergebirge, Bavaria, Germany, 2024, 2025)
- Temperate, subalpine, alpine calcareous inland cliffs with chasmophytic vegetation - Potentillion caulescentis & Cystopteridion (Frankenjura and Bavarian Alps, Germany, 2024)



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- Temperate calcareous inland cliffs with chasmophytic vegetation (Frankenjura, Miren rock, Germany, 2024-25)
- Mesic meadows at low elevation - Arrhenatheretum elatioris, (Bayreuth, Germany, 2023-2024)
- Alpine calcareous grasslands - Caricetum firmae & Seslerio-Caricetum sempervirentis (Berchtesgaden National Park, Germany, 2023)
- Alpine vegetation (Obergurgl, Austria, and Berchtesgaden National Park, Germany, 2023)
- Arborescent matorral with *Juniperus turbinata*, (Asinara National Park and Stintino, Sardinia, Italy, 2022).
- Alpine heaths, Stelvio National Park (Trentino, Italy, 2022)
- *Pinus nigra* forests (Trentino and Marche, Italy, 2022).

TEACHING

- Lecture in Anthropogenic disturbances of mining sites and rock cliffs, contrasting effects on biodiversity, Disturbance ecology course at the University of Bayreuth, 1.5 hr, 12/01/2026
- Seminar Natural Risks and Hazards at the University of Bayreuth, 28-29/11/2025
- Lecture in Plant functional traits, protocols, databases, Vegetation science course at the University of Bayreuth, 1.5 hr, 20/06/2024
- Lecture in Abiotic disturbances in mountains: snow and avalanches, Disturbance ecology course at the University of Bayreuth, 1.5 hr, 17/11/2025, 13/01/2025, 20/11/2023
- Teaching assistant at the Alpine Ecology Course, University of Bayreuth, 1 week, 07/2023, Obergurgl, Austria.



REVIEWER IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

- Natural Resources Conservation and Research (11556)
- Oikos, 2024 (OIK-10723)
- Biodiversity and conservation, 2023

GRANT SUBMISSIONS

- Transnational Access Call 2024 for accessing research infrastructures of the EU funded project POLARIN (ghost writer)

THESIS SUPERVISION

- Fehler Toni (1962660), 2026, *Polypodium vulgare* on the rocks: the role of mosses in fern shaping habitats, Master thesis Geoecology (Geoökologie – Umweltnaturwissenschaften Master of Science), University of Bayreuth.
- Bauer Urte Maria (1601700), 2025, Influences of plants on rock moisture in (sub)alpine rock slopes in the Northern Calcareous Alps, Geoökologie – Umweltnaturwissenschaften Master of Science, University of Bayreuth



Stefan Diller

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Jobs as Engineer

05/2016 ~ 03/2022

Many professional activities have given me the opportunity to develop a goal-focused approach balancing stress and results in collaborative and team-building environments.

Shawn Duke