



SEMINAR

On the function and evolution of tropical dry ecosystems - a global comparative approach

Prof. Kyle Dexter
University of Turin

28 May 2026
h. 14:30 - 15:30

ROOM 6302
PRC BUILDING - FEM
SAN MICHELE A/ADIGE

www.fmach.it

The dry tropics are understudied compared to the wet tropics. The driving motivation of my research programme is to improve our knowledge of tropical dry ecosystems (TDEs), focusing on their function, ecology, evolutionary history and biogeography. The talk will first give a brief tour of TDEs and the factors that control their distribution and dynamics. I will then cover recent work showing that globally, TDEs are a carbon sink on par with that of tropical rain forests. I will then discuss an ongoing project to determine the drivers of variation in vegetative phenology across TDEs. Finally, I will conclude the talk with some reflections on the role of evolutionary history in TDE function and ecology.

Kyle Dexter is currently Associate professor at the University of Torino, Italy. His research focuses on the ecology, evolution and biogeography of trees in tropical dry ecosystems.

