

# Trait-based approach to seagrass ecosystems

## TRAITGRASS

Organized by: Gabriele Procaccini and Rui Santos

Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn - Napoli, Italy: 3-5 October 2018



# What is a trait?

‘any morphological, physiological or phenological feature measurable at the individual level, from the cell to the whole-organism, without reference to the environment or any other level of organization’

(Violle et al. 2007)

- no information external to the individual (environmental factors) or at any other level of organisation (population, community or ecosystem) is required to define a trait
- within a species, the trait, either continuous or categorical, may show different attributes (values) along environmental gradients or through time

# TRAITGRASS aims

1. To answer the question: is it advantageous to apply the trait base approach (TBA) to seagrass pending issues?
2. To identify what is required to facilitate the trait-based approach to seagrass ecosystem functioning.
3. To build a research core group to adopt and apply these mechanistic approaches to seagrasses.
4. To discussing and prepare a conceptual paper on trait based seagrass ecology

# TRAITGRASS achievements

1. A research core group is now working together to apply the TBA to seagrass ecology
2. We are planning the development of a global data base on seagrass traits, as it was done for terrestrial plants (<https://www.try-db.org/TryWeb/Home.php>)
3. Two papers are being prepared:
  1. The description of how TBA may be applied to the specific characteristics of seagrasses and the development of a conceptual TBA model comparing seagrasses with terrestrial plants
  2. To use meta-analysis of seagrass and terrestrial plant traits to test the conceptual model described in paper 1

# TRAITGRASS core group

