

Ann Thijs, PhD candidate
University of Texas at Austin
Integrative Biology

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Education:

August 2003 – present: Doctoral program in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Texas at Austin.
September 1997 – June 2000: Master in Engineering in Environmental Technology, Catholic University of Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium. Magna cum laude.
September 1994 – June 1997: Candidate in Biological Engineering, Catholic University of Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium. Cum laude.

Work experience:

Spring 1999: Internship Soil Remediation Bureau, Betech, Antwerp, Belgium.
Summer 1999: Internship Soil Survey Belgium.
September 2000-January 2003: Postgraduate researcher, Department of Land Management, Catholic University of Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium.
February 2003-August 2003: Volunteer in research project Ladybird Wildflower Center, Austin. Texas.

Research experience:

August 1999 – June 2000: Masters Theses: Bioavailability of aged polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in heavily contaminated soils - Desorption of PAH from soil contaminated with coal tar and creosote oil.

August 2000- January 2003: Postgraduate researcher, Department of Land Management, Catholic University of Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium.
Research projects:

1. Abiotic factors governing eutrophication, acidification and desiccation in vulnerable wetland habitats.
2. Comparison of ecosystem functioning and biogeochemical cycles in temperate forests in Southern Chile and Flanders.
3. Risk assessment of agricultural intensification and N deposition on pristine forests and plantations in Southern Chile.

August 2003 - : Dissertation Research: Juniper encroachment on the Edwards Plateau - Changes in carbon dynamics in a key savanna ecosystem of the US.

Professional affiliations:

Student member of AGU, American Geophysical Union.
Student member of ESA, Ecological Society of America.

Peer-reviewed Publications:

Curriculum Vitae – Ann Thijs

De Brouwere K., Thijs A., Hens M., and Merckx R. (2003) Forms and availability of soil phosphorus in temperate forests in southern Chile and Flanders. *Gayana Botanica*, 60, 17-23.

Maertens E., Thijs A., Smolders E., Degryse F, Cong P.T., and Merckx R. (2004) An anion resin membrane technique to overcome detection limits of isotopically exchanged P in P-sorbing soils. *European Journal of Soil Science*, 55, 63-69.

Honors and awards:

January 2001-January 2003: Grant of Flemish government, (MINA 112/00/04)
Summer 2004: Dorothea Bennet Memorial Graduate Fellowship.
Summer 2004: Graduate of Stable Isotope Ecology course, University of Utah.
Fall 2004: EEB Graduate Fellowship
Spring 2005: Dorothea Bennet Memorial Graduate Fellowship
Spring 2005: Environmental Science Institute (ESI, UT) research fellowship
Fall 2005 - : NASA Earth System Science Fellowship
Fall 2006 – Summer 2007: Prestigious David Bruton, Jr. Fellowship

Posters and Presentations:

B. Torbeyns, A. Thijs, R. Merckx. Release kinetics of PAH in coal tar and creosote contaminated soils. International workshop 'Prospects and limits of natural attenuation at tar oil contaminated sites', Dresden, Germany, 2001.

A. Thijs, M.E. Litvak. Soil organic carbon changes due to woody encroachment by *Juniperus ashei* and *Prosopis glandulosa* in a Central Texas Savanna. Ecological Society of America, annual meeting, Montreal, Canada, 2005.

A. Thijs, M.E. Litvak. Juniper encroachment on the Edwards Plateau - Changes in carbon dynamics in a key savanna ecosystem of the US. Graduate Student Symposium, Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin, 2005.

J.F. Kjelgaard, J.L. Heilman, K.J. McInnes, M.K. Owens, M.E. Litvak, L. Dreiling, M. Bendivas, A. Thijs, N. Cramer. Carbon Dioxide and Energy Exchange Dynamics: the Interaction of Ashe Juniper Encroachment onto Grassland/Live Oak Savannas on the Edwards Plateau. American Geophysical Union, Fall Meeting, San Francisco, 2005.

M.E. Litvak, A. Thijs. The impact of woody encroachment on carbon dynamics in a C3/C4 grassland in Texas. Ecological Society of America, annual meeting, Memphis, Tennessee, 2006.