

EUPHORIA Newsletter No. 2: Spring

The project “**EUPHORIA - European plant phenology research in aquatic systems**”, awarded as Fresh Project 5.0, **started its fieldwork**. The EUPHORIA project aims to improve the understanding of aquatic plant phenology across Europe and its environmental correlations, while fostering a diverse and collaborative network of early career researchers (ECRs) in limnology.



Figure 1: Fieldwork impressions of a *P. australis* population at the same site in Italy in April (left) and May (middle), and the photo setup with an *N. lutea* leaf for determining leaf area later on (right).

The main focus during the months of May, June and July was to begin the fieldwork (Figure 1). Each team's fieldwork start time depended on their latitude and the start of the respective vegetation period. The previously prepared fieldwork guide appears to be working well in general, with any questions being discussed in the project Slack channel. Data upload is organised via Google Drive. So far, 28 teams across Europe (Figure 2) have provided data from 1 - 3 sites and 1 - 5 of the selected species (plus some additional species). The species sampled most frequently are *Phragmites australis* (by 19 teams) and *Myriophyllum spicatum* (11 teams), followed by *Nuphar lutea* and *Elodea nuttallii* (both nine teams) and *Elodea canadensis* (one team). Multiple teams have faced the challenge of plant populations disappearing or being severely damaged by algae growth, especially for submerged species. The fieldwork will continue until the end of the vegetation period.

In June, we began holding monthly 'social get-togethers' on Zoom to encourage networking and help us get to know each other better.

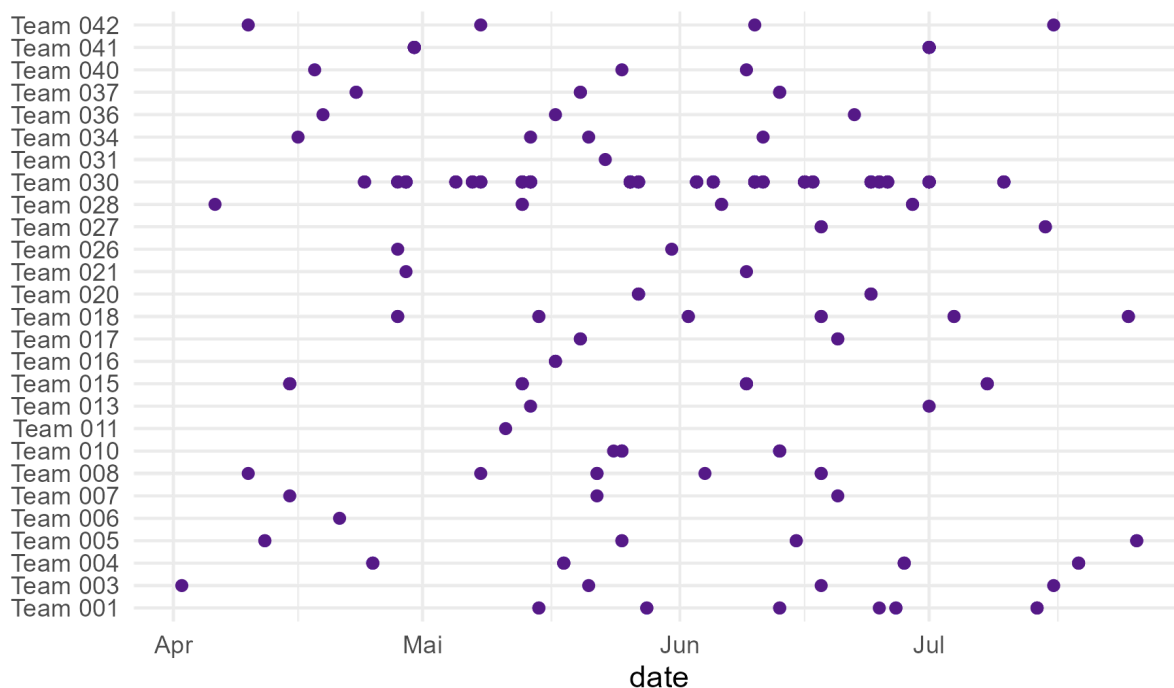


Figure 2: Timeline of the already provided data per team.

To increase **public outreach**, we set up an [Instagram](#) account in addition to our project [website](#) and further social media accounts on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#).

Furthermore, we presented the project at the following conferences and seminars since May:

- June 2025: Czech Limnological Society conference (oral presentation: Erika Skříšová & Daniel Zelenka)
- July 2025: 14th Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences - SEFS14 (oral presentation and poster: Benjamin Misteli)



Figure 3: EUPHORIA members at the SEFS14 meeting

While everyone is outside doing the sampling, we have also already started to establish the first data analysis routines and brainstorm about paper(s).

So, stay tuned!