Package 'ascotraceR'

July 22, 2025

Title Simulate the Spread of Ascochyta Blight in Chickpea

Version 0.0.1

```
Description A spatiotemporal model that simulates the spread of Ascochyta
      blight in chickpea fields based on location-specific weather conditions.
      This model is adapted from a model developed by Diggle et al. (2002)
      <doi:10.1094/PHYTO.2002.92.10.1110> for simulating the spread of anthracnose
      in a lupin field.
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```

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```
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format_weather				Format weather data into an an object suitable for use in ascotraceR spore dispersal models														?															

Description

Formats raw weather data into an object suitable for use in the trace_asco() function ensuring that the supplied weather data meet the requirements of the model to run.

Usage

```
format_weather(
 х,
 YYYY = NULL,
 MM = NULL,
 DD = NULL,
 hh = NULL,
 mm = NULL,
 POSIXct_time = NULL,
  time_zone = NULL,
  temp,
  rain,
 ws,
 wd,
 wd_sd,
  station,
 lon = NULL,
 lat = NULL,
  r = NULL,
```

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```
lonlat_file = NULL
)
```

Arguments

Х	A data.frame object of weather station data for formatting. character.
YYYY	Column name or index in x that refers to the year when the weather was logged. character.
MM	Column name or index in x that refers to the month (numerical) when the weather was logged. character.
DD	Column name or index in x that refers to the day of month when the weather was logged. character.
hh	Column name or index in x that refers to the hour (24 hour) when the weather was logged. character.
mm	Column name or index in x that refers to the minute when the weather was logged. character.
POSIXct_time	Column name or index in x which contains a POSIXct formatted time. This can be used instead of arguments YYYY, MM, DD, hh, mm. character.
time_zone	Time zone (Olsen time zone format) where the weather station is located. May be in a column or supplied as a character string. Optional, see also r. character. See details.
temp	Column name or index in x that refers to temperature in degrees Celsius. character.
rain	Column name or index in x that refers to rainfall in mm. character.
WS	Column name or index in x that refers to wind speed in km / h. character.
wd	Column name or index in x that refers to wind direction in degrees. character.
wd_sd	Column name or index in x that refers to wind speed columns standard deviation .character. This is only applicable if weather data is already summarised to hourly increments. See details.
station	Column name or index in x that refers to the weather station name or identifier. character. See details.
lon	Column name or index in x that refers to weather station's longitude. character. See details.
lat	Column name or index in x that refers to weather station's latitude. character. See details.
r	Spatial raster which is intended to be used with this weather data for use in the blackspot model. Used to set time_zone if it is not supplied in data. character. Optional, see also time_zone.
lonlat_file	A file path to a CSV which included station name/id and longitude and latitude coordinates if they are not supplied in the data. character. Optional, see also lon and lat.

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Details

time_zone All weather stations must fall within the same time zone. If the required stations are located in differing time zones, separate ascotraceR.weather objects must be created for each time zone. If a raster object, r, of previous crops is provided that spans time zones, an error will be emitted.

wd_sd If weather data is provided in hourly increments, a column with the standard deviation of the wind direction over the hour is required to be provided. If the weather data are sub-hourly, the standard deviation will be calculated and returned automatically.

lon, lat and lonlat_file If x provides longitude and latitude values for station locations, these may be specified in the lon and lat columns. If the coordinates are not relevant to the study location NA can be specified and the function will drop these column variables. If these data are not included, (NULL) a separate file may be provided that contains the longitude, latitude and matching station name to provide station locations in the final ascotraceR.weather object that is created by specifying the file path to a CSV file using lonlat_file.

Value

A ascotraceR.weather object (an extension of **data.table**) containing the supplied weather aggregated to each hour in a suitable format for use with trace_asco() containing the following columns:

times: Time in POSIXct format

rain: Rainfall in mm

ws: Wind speed in km / h

wd: Wind direction in compass degrees

wd sd: Wind direction standard deviation in compass degrees

lon: Station longitude in decimal degreeslat: Station latitude in decimal degrees

station: Unique station identifying name

YYYY: Year
MM: Month
DD: Day
hh: Hour
mm: Minute

Examples

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```
"stat_dat.csv",
                             package = "ascotraceR")
weather <- format_weather(</pre>
 x = Newmarracarra,
 POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
 temp = "mean_daily_temp",
 rain = "rain_mm",
 ws = "ws",
 wd = "wd",
 wd_sd = "wd_sd",
 station = "Location",
 time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
 lonlat_file = station_data
)
# Saving weather data and reimporting can lose the object class
# Reimported data can be quickly reformatted, adding the 'asco.weather' class
# with this same function
temp_file_path <- paste0(tempdir(), "weather_file.csv")</pre>
write.csv(weather, file = temp_file_path, row.names = FALSE)
weather_imported <- read.csv(temp_file_path)</pre>
weather <- format_weather(weather_imported,</pre>
                           time_zone = "Australia/Perth")
unlink(temp_file_path) # remove temporary weather file
```

summarise_trace

Summarise a trace_asco output nested list as a single data.frame object

Description

Creates a paddock-level summary **data.table** from the output of trace_asco() on a daily time-step where each row represents one day for the entire paddock.

Usage

```
summarise_trace(trace)
summarize_trace(trace)
```

Arguments

trace

a nested list output from trace_asco()

Value

A **data.table** summarising the model's output for a paddock on a daily time-step with the area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC) at the paddock level for the simulation's run with the following columns:

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```
Model iteration day (day)
        i_day:
      new_gp:
                 New growing points on i_day (n)
susceptible_gp:
                 Susceptible growing points on i_day (n)
  exposed_gp:
                 Exposed growing points on i_day (n)
        i date:
                 Calendar date corresponding to model's i_day
          day: Julian day or numeric day of year (day)
          cdd: Cumulative degree days (day)
          cwh: Cumulative wet hours (h)
                 Cumulative rainfall (mm)
 gp_standard:
                 standard growing points assuming growth is not impeded by infection on i_day (n)
      AUDPC:
                 Area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC) for the duration of the model's run.
```

See Also

```
trace_asco(), tidy_trace()
```

Examples

```
Newmarracarra <-
  read.csv(system.file("extdata",
            "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
station_data <-
  system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")
weather_dat <- format_weather(</pre>
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  ws = "ws",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  wd = "wd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data)
traced <- trace_asco(</pre>
 weather = weather_dat,
 paddock_length = 100,
 paddock_width = 100,
 initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
 sowing_date = "1998-06-09",
 harvest_date = "1998-06-30".
 time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
 primary_infection_foci = "centre")
summarised <- summarise_trace(traced)</pre>
```

Newmarracarra <-

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```
read.csv(system.file("extdata",
            "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
station_data <-
  system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")
weather_dat <- format_weather(</pre>
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  ws = "ws",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  wd = "wd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data)
traced <- trace_asco(</pre>
 weather = weather_dat,
 paddock_length = 100,
 paddock_width = 100,
 initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
 sowing_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09"),
 harvest_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09") + lubridate::ddays(100),
 time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
 primary_infection_foci = "centre")
summarised <- summarise_trace(traced)</pre>
```

tidy_trace

Tidy up a trace_asco output nested list

Description

Creates a tidy **data.table** from the output of trace_asco().

Usage

```
tidy_trace(trace)
```

Arguments

trace

a nested list output from trace_asco()

Value

A tidy data.table of trace_asco() output.

See Also

```
summarise_trace(), trace_asco()
```

Examples

```
Newmarracarra <-
  read.csv(system.file("extdata",
            "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
station_data <-
  system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")
weather_dat <- format_weather(
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  ws = "ws",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  wd = "wd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data)
traced <- trace_asco(</pre>
 weather = weather_dat,
 paddock_length = 20,
 paddock_width = 20,
 initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
 sowing_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09"),
 harvest_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09") + lubridate::ddays(100),
 time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
 primary_infection_foci = "centre")
tidied <- tidy_trace(traced)</pre>
# take a look at the infectious growing points on day 102
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(data = subset(tidied, i_day == 102),
       aes(x = x, y = y, fill = infectious_gp)) +
 geom_tile()
```

trace_asco

Simulates the spread of Ascochyta blight in a chickpea field

Description

Simulate the spatiotemporal development of Ascochyta blight in a chickpea paddock over a growing season. Both host and pathogen activities are simulated in one square metre cells.

Usage

```
trace_asco(
 weather,
  paddock_length,
  paddock_width,
  sowing_date,
  harvest_date,
  initial_infection,
  seeding_rate = 40,
  gp_r = 0.0065
 max_gp_lim = 5000,
 max_new_gp = 350,
  latent_period_cdd = 150,
  time_zone = "UTC",
  primary_infection_foci = "random",
  primary_inoculum_intensity = 1,
  n_foci = 1,
  spores_per_gp_per_wet_hour = 0.22,
  splash_cauchy_parameter = 0.5,
 wind_cauchy_multiplier = 0.015,
  daily_rain_threshold = 2,
  hourly_rain_threshold = 0.1,
  susceptible_days = 2,
  rainfall_multiplier = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

weather weather data for a representative chickpea paddock for a complete chickpea

growing season for the model's operation.

paddock_length length of a paddock in metres (y).

paddock_width width of a paddock in metres (x).

sowing_date a character string of a date value indicating sowing date of chickpea seed and

the start of the 'ascotraceR' model. Preferably in ISO8601 format (YYYY-MM-DD), *e.g.* "2020-04-26". Assumes there is sufficient soil moisture to induce

germination and start the crop growing season.

harvest_date a character string of a date value indicating harvest date of chickpea crop, which

is also the last day to run the 'ascotraceR' model. Preferably in ISO8601 format

(YYYY-MM-DD), e.g., "2020-04-26".

initial_infection

a character string of a date value referring to the initial or primary infection on

seedlings, resulting in the production of infectious growing points.

seeding_rate indicate the rate at which chickpea seed is sown per square metre. Defaults to

40.

gp_rr refers to rate of increase in chickpea growing points per degree Celsius per day.

Defaults to 0.0065.

max_gp_lim maximum number of chickpea growing points (meristems) allowed per square metre. Defaults to 5000.

max_new_gp Maximum number of new chickpea growing points (meristems), which develop per day, per square metre. Defaults to 350.

latent_period_cdd

latent period in cumulative degree days (sum of daily temperature means) is the period between infection and production of lesions on susceptible growing points. Defaults to 150.

time_zone refers to time in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

primary_infection_foci

refers to the inoculated coordinates where the infection starts. Accepted inputs are: centre/center or random (Default) or a data.frame with column names 'x', 'y' and 'load'. The data.frame inputs inform the model of specific grid cell/s coordinates where the epidemic should begin. The 'load' column is optional and can specify the primary_inoculum_intensity for each coordinate.

primary_inoculum_intensity

Refers to the amount of primary infection as lesions on chickpea plants at the time of initial_infection. On the date of initial infection in the experiment. The sources of primary inoculum can be infected seed, volunteer chickpea plants or infested stubble from the previous seasons. Defaults to 1.

n_foci Quantifies the number of primary infection foci. The value is 1 when primary_infection_foci = "centre" and can be greater than 1 if primary_infection_foci = "random.

spores_per_gp_per_wet_hour

number of spores produced per infectious growing point during each wet hour. Also known as the spore_rate. Value is dependent on the susceptibility of the host genotype.

splash_cauchy_parameter

a parameter used in the Cauchy distribution and describes the median distance spores travel due to rain splashes. Default to 0.5.

wind_cauchy_multiplier

a scaling parameter to estimate a Cauchy distribution which resembles the possible distances a conidium travels due to wind driven rain. Defaults to 0.015.

daily_rain_threshold

minimum cumulative rainfall required in a day to allow hourly spore spread events. See also hourly_rain_threshold. Defaults to 2.

hourly_rain_threshold

minimum rainfall in an hour to trigger a spore spread event in the same hour (assuming daily_rain_threshold is already met). Defaults to 0.1.

susceptible_days

the number of days for which conidia remain viable on chickpea after dispersal. Defaults to 2. Conidia remain viable on the plant for at least 48 hours after a spread event

rainfall_multiplier

logical values will turn on or off rainfall multiplier default method. The default method increases the number of spores spread per growing point if the rainfall in the spore spread event hour is greater than one. Numeric values will scale the

number of spores spread per growing point against the volume of rainfall in the hour. Defaults to FALSE.

Value

a nested list object where each sub-list contains daily data for the day i_day (the model's iteration day) generated by the model including: * paddock, an 'x' 'y' data.table containing: * x, location of quadrat on x-axis in paddock, * y, location of quadrat on y-axis in paddock, * new_gp, new growing points produced in the last 24 hours, * susceptible_gp, susceptible growing points in the last 24 hours, * exposed_gp, exposed growing points in the last 24 hours, * infectious_gp, infectious growing points in the last 24 hours,

i_day, model iteration day, * cumulative daily weather data, a data.table containing: * cdd, cumulative degree days, * cwh, cumulative wet hours, * cr, cumulative rainfall in mm, * gp_standard, standard growing points assuming growth is not impeded by infection, * infected_coords, a data.table of only infectious growing point coordinates, * new_infections, a data.table of newly infected growing points, * exposed_gps, a data.table of exposed growing points in the latent period phase of infection.

See Also

```
tidy_trace(), summarise_trace()
```

Examples

```
# First weather data needs to be imported and formatted with `format_weather`
Newmarracarra <-
   read.csv(system.file("extdata",
            "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
   system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")
weather_dat <- format_weather(
   x = Newmarracarra,
   POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
   temp = "mean_daily_temp",
   ws = "ws",
   wd_sd = "wd_sd",
   rain = "rain_mm",
   wd = "wd",
   station = "Location",
   time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
   lonlat_file = station_data)
# Now the `trace_asco` function can be run to simulate disease spread
traced <- trace_asco(</pre>
  weather = weather_dat,
  paddock_length = 100,
  paddock_width = 100,
  initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
  sowing_date = "1998-06-09",
  harvest_date = "1998-06-30",
```

```
time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  gp_rr = 0.0065,
  primary_inoculum_intensity = 40,
  spores_per_gp_per_wet_hour = 0.22,
  primary_infection_foci = "centre")
traced[[23]] # extracts the model output for day 23
```

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