



British Ecological Society

Biotic Interactions in The Tropics:

**A Special Symposium of the British Ecological
Society**

&

**The Annual Meeting of the Association for
Tropical Biology and Conservation**

**University of Aberdeen
7-10 July 2003**

Programme and Abstracts



**The Association
for Tropical
Biology and
Conservation**

ANDELMAN, S.J. (National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis)

The Role of Networks in Ecological Research: Experience at NCEAS

Arguably one of the greatest challenges for ecology is to understand how ecological processes shape patterns and dynamics of biodiversity the complexity of natural systems, and how human activities alter these. Based on experience at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, I discuss current approaches to meeting these challenges through network science in ecology and future directions and needs.

18:30 AVISSAR, R. (Duke U)

Closing comments and discussion

Monday, 7 July, 13:30-18:00
8. Contributed Session
Biodiversity & Conservation (A) (TBA, Chair)
St Mary's 105

13:30 ROUBIK, D. W. (STRI)

A taste of honey: NTFPs, HPLC & HSBS

Tropical forests give rise to among the most complex of natural products in terms of botanical origin and taxonomic richness: honey. We have explored the palynology, chemistry and culture of honey utilization. Brief discussion of honey ecology will highlight studies in equatorial Asia, Africa and the Americas.

13.50 ANDERSON, C. (U Goettingen)

Diversity of epiphytes in central Guatemala

Diversity of vascular and cryptogamic epiphytes was determined in three different climates on totally 30 trees. Results showed that emergent trees show a higher ratio of non vascular to vascular epiphytes. The absolute diversity ranked cloud forest > tropical rain forest and temperate subtropical forest.

14.10 LEPONCE, M., DELABIE, J.H.C. & VASCONCELOS, H.L. (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, UESC/CEPLAC Brazil, Univ. Fed. Uberlândia).

Diversity and structure of ant communities in central Amazonia

Thorough inventories revealed that in central Amazonia the leaf litter ant community was very diverse (Fisher's $\alpha = 44 \pm 2$) with relatively low dominance and low species density compared to communities from a Chocóan dry forest ($\alpha = 19 \pm 1$) and from a Brazilian cocoa plantation ($\alpha = 20 \pm 1$).

14:30



ESCOBAR, F., LOBO, J.M. & HALFFTER, G.

Altitude and composition of dung beetle assemblages in the Ciénegas Naturales, Spain (Instituto de Ecología, C. and Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Spain)

Richness species at middle elevations seems to result from the mixture of dung beetles associated with different altitudes and latitudes. Cluster analysis of dung beetles (Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) assemblages in Neotropical mountains. Horizontal colonization is more important than vertical colonization.

14:50 VULINEC, K. (Delaware State U)

Seed disperser communities and secondary forests in the Brazilian Amazon

Biomass differences of seed dispersers (primates and dung beetles) from secondary forest and primary forest in the Brazilian Amazon may have implications for seed dispersal in these habitats. Secondary growth receives nearly as much use by primates as primary forest and should exhibit a pattern of clumped, deeply buried seeds.

15:10 MORAIS, H.C., DINIZ, I.R. & HAY, J.D. (U Brasilia)

Dietary specificity of Lepidopteran larvae in the Cerrado

Folivorous Lepidopteran larvae showed a high dietary specificity on 55 species of host plants, with 67% being monophagous. F_t was 0.49 and S_o was 0.07. For larvae exclusive on one genus, 60% were monophagous. No significant relationship was found between S_o and size of the genus. Our results do not corroborate the hypothesis that taxonomically isolated species in small genera support distinct herbivore communities, nor the predominance of oligotrophy in this community.

15:30 Poster Session, Coffee and Tea Central Refectory

Monday, 7 July, 16:30-18:30
9. Contributed Symposium
Evidence-based Forest Management in Tropical Forests of Latin America (Paul Phillips & Paul van Gardingen, Organisers)
St. Mary's 105

16:30 VAN GARDINGEN, P.R. & PHILLIPS, P.D. (U Edinburgh)

Evidence-based forest management: strategic knowledge tools

Strategic forest management decisions are complex, financial pressures on forests resources are high, yet the service functions provided by large tropical forests are of critical importance at all scales. Decisions of how to balance priorities, risks and resources must be based on evidence.