Biotic Interactions in The Tropics:

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Programme and Abstracts

M/04 **NGUEIRA-DE-SÁ, F. & TRIGO, J.R. (Unicamp, I. Biologia)**

Importance of fecal shield of* Plagiometriona flavescens *(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) as a defensive apparatus and its cost in the development and performance of the larva: field and laboratory tests.

Fecal shield is a potentially cheap defense. In this study we aimed to confirm this hypothesis. We followed larvae cohorts in the field and laboratory, maintaining or removing their shields. There was no significant difference in the mortality, performance and development between the experimental groups. Thus, fecal shield importance is discussed.

M/05 **ROISIN, Y., VAUTHIER, F. & LEPONCE, M. (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Inst. Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique)**

Pitfalls in the characterization of termite assemblages: lessons from neotropical ecosystems

Extensive transect sampling of termites in three neotropical ecosystems revealed important variations in species richness, abundance patterns and diversity indices, both within and between ecosystems. Comparing assemblages separated in space or time therefore requires the estimation of sample representativeness through replicated sampling and multifaceted data treatment procedures.

M/06 **SHAHABUDDIN, G. (Duke U)**

A mass dispersal episode of butterflies in Venezuela: directionality, composition and the effect of wind

A mass dispersal episode of butterflies was observed in Venezuela during the wet season of 1996. Eighty percent of flying butterflies belonged to the families Pieridae and Hesperidae. Seventy-five percent of butterflies flew in the south-easterly direction. Flight direction was unaffected by the direction of wind.

M/07 **WEGMANN, W., DAWES-GROMADZKI, T., FISHER, A., LINSENMAIR, K.E. (U Würzburg, CRC, CSIRO, Tro. Sav. Coop. Res. Centre, NT, Australia)**

Termites and remotely sensed vegetation. Are they interrelated ?: an example from Australia.

Termites are likely to be influenced by temporal and spatial variation of landscape cover due to their low dispersal rate. We sampled termites on sites differing in current environmental conditions and historical land use. Additionally different scales and landscape metrics were computed and correlated to termite data.

Group N: Botany and Plant Systematics

N/01 **AGUIRRE, A., DORADO, O., ARIAS, D. & DIRZO, R. (UA Morelos)**

***A peculiar fruit polymorphism in a Mexican population of* Jacaratia mexicana**

Plants of Jacaratia mexicana exhibit small or large fruits. This apparent polymorphism is explained by the fact that large-fruited plants are female individuals, while small-fruited plants are individuals predominantly bearing male flowers and a few hermaphroditic flowers producing the small fruits. We discuss the ecological implications of this peculiar gynodioicism.

N/02 **ATKINS, H.J. & CRONK, Q.C.B. (Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, U Edinburgh)**

Systematics and biogeography of* Cyrtandra *(Gesneriaceae) in Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The Indonesian island of Sulawesi lies at the centre of SE Asia, an area of biogeographical interest due to its position at the meeting point of the Asian and Australasian floras. Preliminary research on the origin and affinities of the Sulawesi Cyrtandra species suggests that they are not a monophyletic group and that the majority fall within a predominantly Philippine clade.

N/03 **CANNON, C.H. & MANOS, P.S. (Duke U)**

The phylogeography of Southeast Asian stone oaks (*Lithocarpus*)

Chloroplast DNA sequence was sampled from numerous individuals and species in nine Southeast Asian populations of *Lithocarpus*. Chloroplast sequence variation was divided equally between two clades, with strong geographic structure. Indochinese populations were least diverse, comparable to a single Bornean population. Patterns indicate continuous presence of rainforest in Southeast Asia.

N/04 **MAIA, L.A. & PAROLIN, P. (INPA)**

Seedling morphology of tree species in central Amazonian floodplain forests

In Amazonian floodplain forests, seedling establishment is a particularly critical step since annual regular changes between aquatic and terrestrial phases. We analyzed 21 tree species from Central Amazonian floodplain forests, regarding the position of cotyledons, exposition, and function, the relation between seedling type, seed size, dispersal capacity and successional status.

Group O: Restoration & Resource Management

O/01 **DHARMAPARAKRAMA, A.L.S., HERATH, I.H.M.H.B., RODRIGO, V.H.L., GUNATILLEKE, C.V.S & GUNATILLEKE, I.A.U.N. (U Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)**

Feasibility of cultivation of* Elettaria cardamomum *in lowland Hevea rubber plantations in Sri Lanka

Cardamom is being commercially cultivated by removing the