



Ecology Seminar



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16:20h

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Changes of tropical canopy ant communities along environmental gradients: insights from New Guinea rainforests



Ants are one of the keystone invertebrates in tropical forest canopies making up a significant biomass. However, few studies have investigated their communities beyond the level of individual trees.

I will summarise our findings from Papua New Guinea, where arboreal ant communities were studied using a plot-based approach (i.e. a census of ant species in forest plots). This unique approach allowed us to draw conclusions about the effects of three major environmental gradients (stratification, elevational and successional) using data from > 2,000 trees.

In our recent research, we have also investigated the role of functional and phylogenetic diversity and performed manipulative experiments on ant species. Interestingly, the results show that some of the above conclusions change depending on which facets of ant diversity and which species are considered. This suggests that more than just overall taxonomic diversity needs to be considered for ants.

Where? Lecture Hall B2, Building B2, Branišovská 1760