

Does the Seed Predation get affected by the presence of humans or its activities?

An-Magritt Emilie Nergaard Todnem, Giulia Pampolha Gomes

Abstract: Seed predation plays an important role for plant and animals' population, impacting species composition and functioning of ecosystems. In natural condition, usually depends on biotic and abiotic factors, such as animal groups, seed type, vegetation structure and environmental conditions. Situation might be different however near human settlements. Some species may pull away from built-up areas and humans, mostly in consequence of some activities like lumbering and game hunting, pesticides, planting of pure stands, introduction of exotic plants and animals, and wild fruit and seed harvest. In other hand, some species that can be attracted by leftovers as food resource. The objective of this study was understand how human presence can affect seed predation, by comparing seed predation in an area close to settlement and in an area surrounded by natural forest. To do so, we installed "seeds station" with bates (seeds) in plots near and distant of field station. Results showed no significant difference on seed removal between. The result we got, may then be related to the fact of the station being a preserved area. Although it is human activity that causes fragmentation and disruption, the differences are smaller than if one carried out the investigations in an area that was not protected. Buildings and humans can also attract some species and while some animals seek out human places because they know there will be food there, others can shade away, and both can eat the seeds.