

## Workshop Mycorrhizas in tropical forests

UTPL, Loja, Ecuador,  
September 22-25, 2008

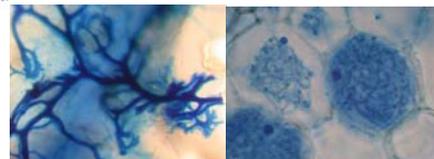
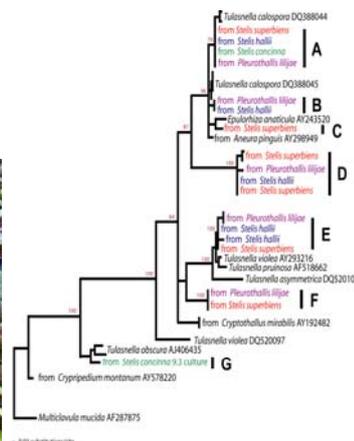


### Preface

Biotic mutualistic interactions are a main driving force in evolution and maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics. Mycorrhizas are probably the most wide spread mutualistic interactions in the mega diverse tropical forests. Although knowledge on mycorrhizas increased significantly during the last 30 years, data from tropical forest ecosystems are still rare. At same time most of these ecosystems are highly endangered and disappearing rapidly. We therefore aim to promote interest and activities in research on mycorrhizas in tropical forests by **inviting to a workshop** on

### “Mycorrhizas in tropical forests”

The workshop shall address diversity of mycobionts and mycorrhizal types of woody plants, herbs and epiphytes in neotropical and paleotropical, wet and seasonally dry, lowland and mountain rain forests. Impacts on plant diversity and composition, on ecology and ecosystem dynamics, on threat and regeneration of tropical forests shall be topics for presentations and discussions.



- 501 substatuente

The workshop will be held in the **city of Loja in South Ecuador**



BOTANY &  
MYCOLOGY



University of Tübingen



### **The workshop will be organized by**

Dr. des. Juan Pablo Suárez, Biología Molecular y Celular, Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL), Ecuador, and

Dr. Ingrid Kottke, Systematic Botany and Mycology, Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen, Germany,

in cooperation with DFG-research group FOR 816, Estación Científica San Francisco (ECSF), Loja, Ecuador

### **Scientific Board**

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Dr. Luis Miguel Romero, Rector and Chancellor of UTPL

### **Date: September 22 – 25, 2008**

We kindly invite scientists and doctoral students working in the field of mycorrhizas of tropical forests to exchange experience and new research strategies in these fairly neglected ecosystems. Workshop fees will be kept as low as possible (300.- US\$, means about 200.- € covering all accommodation, meals, excursion and airport car transportation).

Scientists and doctoral students are asked to inform us soon as possible on their interest and send **title and abstract until 31 March 2008** to [Ingrid.Kottke@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:Ingrid.Kottke@uni-tuebingen.de)

## Why do we invite and why to this place?

The area of Loja, Southern Ecuador, is one of the hottest hotspots of biodiversity of the world and was declared UNESCO Biosphere Reserve “Podocarpus-El Condór” in September 2007. The biosphere reserve covers mountain rain forests, bushy páramos, tropical lowland forests and seasonally dry forests.

Since 2001 investigations on mycorrhizas in the tropical mountain rain forest are carried out by us at the reserve Estación Científica San Francisco (ECSF) situated at 1820 m, halfway between Loja and Zamora. The still ongoing studies showed omnipresence of mycorrhizas for trees, ericads, ferns, orchids, heterotrophic plant and some liverworts. New types of interaction were discovered and an unexpected multitude of mycobionts proven by molecular phylogeny. For further information see [www.mycorrhiza-research.de](http://www.mycorrhiza-research.de)

Mycorrhizal research is embedded in interdisciplinary DFG-projects (FOR 402 and FOR 816) that cover a broad range of organisms, ecosystem dynamics and restoration efforts ([www.bergregenwald.de](http://www.bergregenwald.de); [www.tropicalmountainforest.org](http://www.tropicalmountainforest.org)). See: Beck E, Bendix J, Kottke I, Makeschin F, Mosandl R (eds.) 2008 Gradients in a Tropical Mountain Ecosystem of Ecuador. Series Ecological Studies 198, Springer Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg



Estacion Científica San Francisco

The city of Loja (170 000 inhabitants, Southern Ecuador, 2100 m) is a safe and calm place with pleasant climate throughout the year (around 20°C). The UTPL offers a new congress centre and hotel with lecture rooms and all necessary infrastructures for a productive workshop, including lectures, poster presentations and round table discussions. The UTPL ([www.utpl.edu.ec](http://www.utpl.edu.ec)) has housed many international conferences during the last three years, e.g. the scientific congress on Andean orchid mycorrhizas with 300 participants in November 2007. Loja can be reached by regular local planes (TAME, ICARO) from Quito or Guayaquil within one hour. Further transportation by car to the city of Loja (about 1h) will be organized by UTPL.



View of Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL)

## Preliminary schedule

4 days: 3 days with lectures of 30 min. and poster sessions, 1 opening lecture 45 min, 1 evening lecture 60 min.

1 day excursion to ElTiro pass (bushy páramo) – ECSF (tropical mountain rain forest)

Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup>:

10. 30 wellcome and opening of the workshop

11- 12 Opening lecture

12-13 lectures on mycorrhizas of tropical forest trees (AM)

15-18 lectures on mycorrhizas of tropical forest trees (AM/ECM)

19 welcome dinner

Tuesday September 23<sup>nd</sup>:

9-13 lectures on mycorrhizas of woody plants, terrestrial herbs and epiphytes in tropical forests

15-17 Poster session

18-20 main lecture, open to public

Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>: Excursion to ElTiro/ECSF/

Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup>:

9-13 lectures on comparison of mycorrhizas in different tropical regions, threat and afforestation efforts

15-16 Poster session

16-18 Round table discussion:

19 Farewell dinner

Further excursions or longer stay in Loja will be organized on personal request.