Master thesis project (one 60 credit or two collaborative 30 credit projects)

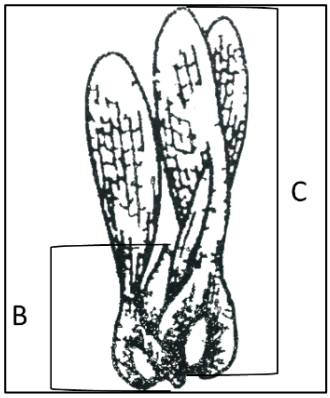
Importance of seed morphology for dispersal, predation and germination in dipterocarp trees in Borneo

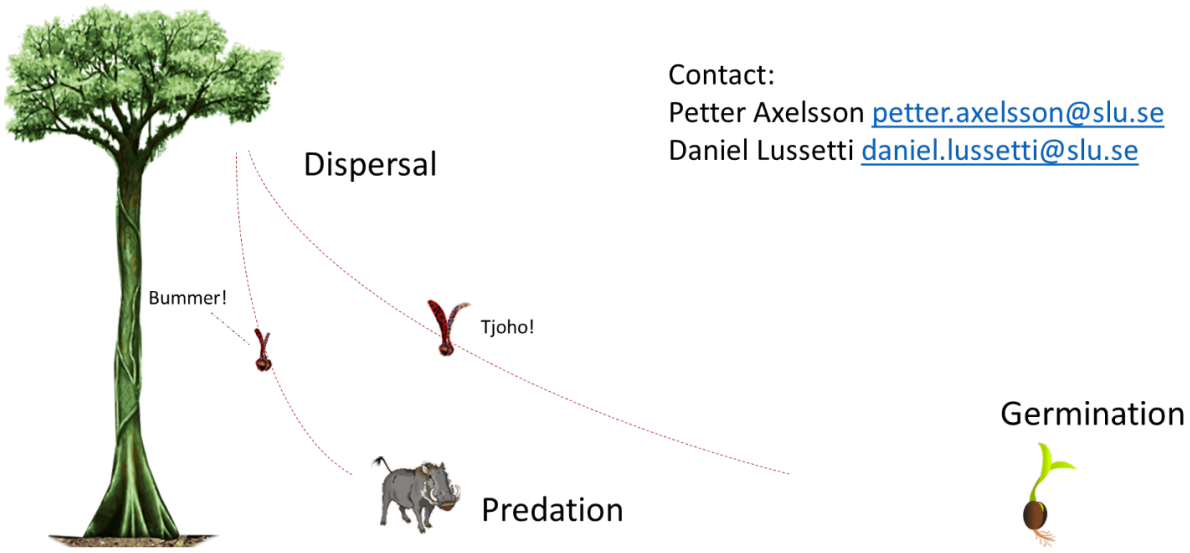
Seed morphology is ecologically important for many plants as it influence the ability of dispersal, germination and regeneration. For example, characteristics of dipterocarp seeds such as wing size and weight of seeds could comprise a trade-off between long dispersal of small seeds with long wings, and high germination potential of large sized seeds. Furthermore, dispersal may also influence density dependence effects on predation.

We know that wing length and seed size can vary among seeds from different mother trees, which could influence seed dispersal. However, we do not know how strong this affect is and how variation in dispersal influence germination success and the risk of seed predation.

In this project you will travel to Borneo to collect seeds from different mother trees, quantify their variation in seed morphology and test how this variation influence dispersal ability. You will further assess how variation in seed morphology and dispersal influence the possibility for successful regeneration.

The project could be divided on two students collaborating on experiments but working on separate parts of the project. You would need to fund you project via a Minor Field Studies (MFS, deadline April 30th, 2018) or similar funding.





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