

September 15, 2014

Diogo Loretto
Oecologia Australis

Dear Sir,

Please find attached a **short communication** for consideration for publication in Oecologia Australis. It is called "Estudio comparativo del contenido nutrimental de los suelos y de las características de la hojarasca en el bosque húmedo tropical del Ecuador" and its co-authors are Julio Aules and Fernando Romero of the Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH) in Ecuador, with me as second author and correspondent. All three of us agree with submitting the manuscript for review by the editors of Oecologia Australis and all three of us collaborated on it. The manuscript is not being considered elsewhere for publication nor is it currently published elsewhere. It is an extraction of the undergraduate thesis work done by its lead author, Julio Aules, at ESPOCH.

Potential reviewers of the manuscript include:

1. Martha Lucía Burbano Garces, Departamento de Biología, Universidad del Cauca, Colombia; marthaluciabg@gmail.com.
2. Jorge Alberto Sánchez Espinosa, Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi, Bogotá, Colombia; jasanchez@igac.gov.co.
3. María de las Mercedes Ron, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina; mmron@criba.edu.ar.
4. Ángela Martín, Instituto de Investigaciones Agrobiológicas de Galicia, España; amartin@iiag.csic.es.
5. Francisco Javier González-Vila, Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Agrobiología, España; fjgon@irnase.csic.es.

Thank you for considering our manuscript.

Yours truly,



Brian McLaren, Associate Professor



Julio Adrian Aules Tipín



José Fernando Romero Canizares