



## VACANCY FOR MASTER THESIS

### Predation pressure in cacao agroforestry of Peru under different management types

Insect pests significantly reduce cacao productivity worldwide. However, their abundance in plantations varies in function of management changes, such as shade cover and pruning. Our project aims to evaluate the importance of insect predation in native cacao plantations of Peru and its changes due to ecological and agronomic variables.

The use of dummy caterpillars as experimentally standardized prey has proved to be a valuable method to assess predation pressure in several ecosystems. It allows for measurements of predation intensity, as well as the identification of the taxa of animal predators.

We are looking for highly motivated students interested in studying insect predation in cacao plantations of northern Peru. Field work will offer the opportunity to gain experience in ecological studies, with insights on insect diversity in tropical dry forests and smallholder cacao agroforestry.

Field activities are planned for a period of two to three months between October and December 2018 or January and March, 2020.

**Students in biology, biodiversity and agriculture are welcome to join.**

**Please contact us if you are interested!**

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