

Project Update: November 2013

Following the successful completion of the final field season in August 2013, I started the data and specimen processing. So far I have identified over 220 epiphytes (including climber, vines, strangler, hemi-epiphytes and parasites) and analysed significant quantities of the environmental and ecological data. Preliminary results suggest that historical hurricanes have negatively affect the canopy microclimate in Cusuco and that certain tree species are more vulnerable to hurricane damage than others. This is important as epiphytes depend on 'stable' microenvironments within the canopy. Any disruption, due to infrequent, large disturbance events, could therefore result in a shift in their composition, abundance and diversity. Some of the finding will be submitted to peer reviewed journals in due time.

