

Project Update: May 2016

We are monitoring reproductive phenology, floral visitors through focal observations and camera traps, and conducting mating system experiments. Data collection has been conducted, especially for *Echinopsis rhodotricha*, which presented massive flowering in the last 2 months. Additionally, we have characterised floral and fruit traits of six cacti species. We installed a camera trap for monitoring floral visitors, but as an unexpected result we reported flower consumption of *E. rhodotricha* by two vertebrate species. Now, we are also interested to evaluate the effects of florivory on the reproductive success of *E. rhodotricha*, quantifying and comparing fruit set between damaged and undamaged flowers in a natural population of this cactus. This approach is important because florivory is reducing floral attractiveness and rewards for pollinators and consequently decreasing fruit set. The figures below show some steps of field work.



Figure 1. Phenological monitoring in individuals of *E. rhodotricha* (January/ 2016), through direct count of flowers.



Figure 2: Camera trap recording the floral visitors.

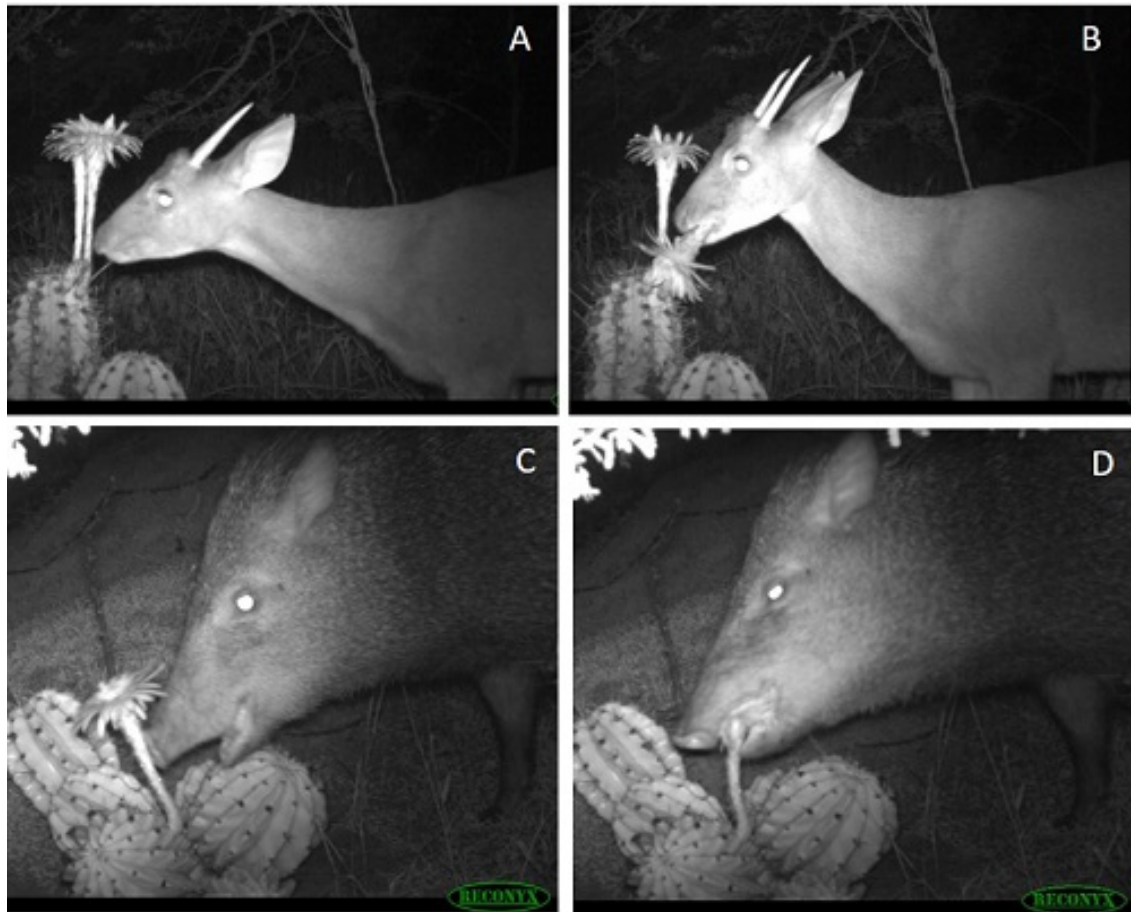


Figure 3: Vertebrate florivory records by red brocket deer and white-lipped peccary on flowers of *Echinopsis rhodotricha*. (A-B) *Mazama americana*. (C-D) *Pecari tajacu*.