

Project Update: October 2009

A greenhouse experiment has been set up to investigate the interspecific competition using seedlings of blackberry (*Rubus niveus*) and 5 of the most common native plant species of the Scalesia forest. Seedlings of blackberry and the 5 natives were planted (paired species) in plastic bags using different densities. A second experiment has been conducted to determine the response of blackberry and the 5 native species to different light and water conditions.



Seedlings of the different species have been grown under three different light levels (100% sunlight, 50% and 10%) and three different watering regimens based on the rainfall (10 ml, 25ml and 65 ml per week). Shade is provided using wooden cages covered with shade cloth and water is manually provided once a week. After 4 months experiments will be stopped to assess the effects of the different treatments.