



Bio-Protection

Bioprotection science for New Zealand

Comparison of pre-and post-dispersal seed predation in Acacia

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Abstract: Several *Acacia* spp. are established in New Zealand; their success has been attributed to escape from natural enemies. Recent studies in Canterbury revealed that Acacias suffer varying levels of seed predation from both the canopy and the ground. However, the agents of removal are unknown. This project aims to elucidate who is taking the seeds and the consequences for Acacia. Techniques used will include field observations of bird feeding behaviour, remote cameras to record invertebrate visitation and pitfall trapping to sample invertebrates. Training will be given in field methods, experimental design and data analysis.