

Graduation Citation

ELMOUTTIE, David

B.App.Sc (Hons1) QUT

Thesis Title:

Utilisation of seed resources by small mammals: A two way interaction

Supervisors:

Professor Peter Mather

Dr. Ian Williamson

Citation:

Australian tropical rainforests represent some of the most diverse and complex ecosystems in the world but human activities have often lead to their fragmentation into small habitat patches. This thesis investigated the relationship between the availability of seed resources and two small mammal species in tropical rainforest fragments on the Atherton Tableland. Results show that small mammal populations respond positively to seed resource availability but did not over exploit resources within habitat fragments. Feeding trials also demonstrated that small mammals can enhance the germination rate of rainforest seeds. In combination this indicates that in Australian tropical rainforest small mammals contribute to forest regeneration particularly in areas where large fruit-eating native species are absent.