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A Test for Allelopathy of the Invasive

Cedrela odorata L. (Meliaceae: Magnoliidae) in Galapagos

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en Ciencias Biológicas

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Dedico este trabajo, prueba del esfuerzo hecho, a mis hijos: Matías y Nicolás, y; a Byron, porque son la razón para seguir luchando.

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1 A test for Allelopathy of the Invasive *Cedrela odorata* L. (Meliaceae: Magnoliidae) in
2 Galápagos

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5

6 ABSTRACT

7 Non-native plant species, especially in the Galapagos Islands, are considered to be
8 one of the main threats to native organisms, ecosystems, human welfare and
9 ecosystems worldwide. Following are the results of an experiment that was conducted
10 to prove the potential inhibitory effects of the leaf and root extracts derived from the
11 invasive *Cedrela odorata* L. (Meliaceae: Magnoliidae) tree on germination and growth
12 of four native and four non-native species of the Galápagos archipelago. Experiments
13 were set on the field using germination substrate for seeds, which along with
14 seedlings of the eight species used for the experiment, were kept in the greenhouse
15 of the Galápagos National Park (GNP). The effects of the extracts on germination and
16 growth were compared against rainwater (control). Results showed that, although,
17 overall the allelopathic influences were species specific for both germination and
18 height patterns, individual species analysis revealed the extracts of *C. odorata* leaf
19 and root caused a significantly negative effect on growth (height and dry weight) of
20 the endemic *Scalesia pedunculata*, which is the main tree competitor of *C. odorata* in
21 the Archipelago. These results may help to explain the dominance of *C. odorata* and
22 the consequent exclusion of *S. pedunculata* in highly invaded area in Santa Cruz
23 Island.

24 Keywords: Allelopathic effect, *Cedrela odorata*, invasive species, Galápagos,
25 *Scalesia pedunculata*

26 INTRODUCTION

27 Non-native plant species are considered to be one of the main threats to native
28 organisms, ecosystems, human welfare and ecosystems worldwide (Hejda *et al.*
29 2009). One of the most serious negative impacts of non-native (also known as
30 introduced or exotic) plant species is their potential to spread fast and colonize
31 recipient areas, becoming invasive and hence outcompeting native plants (*sensu*
32 Richardson 2000). These capabilities can cause some colonized areas to be
33 dominated by non-native and invasive species (Mascaro 2011).

34 The potential of certain plant species to produce chemical compounds that
35 inhibit germination or growth of native species -known as allelopathy- has been
36 proposed as one of the mechanisms that allows successful colonization by invasive
37 species (Bais *et al.* 2003). Allelopathy mechanisms have been proven to inhibit the
38 establishment of native plants ranging from herbs (Turk and Tawaha 2002) to tree
39 species such as *Acacia pennatula* (Peguero *et al.* 2011). Relevant investigations have
40 shown that the utilization of chemical weapons may not only favor the plant
41 responsible for the chemical production, but also provide advantages to other
42 introduced plants that can be positively affected by either the production of the
43 compounds or the space availability, due to the absence of resident species excluded
44 by the allelopathic substances (Callaway and Ridenour 2004).

45 In the Galápagos Islands invasive species are, nowadays, one of the main
46 problems for native biota, and many of the unique forest of this archipelago are now

47 dominated by invasive plants (Jaeger and Kowarik 2007). One of the newly formed
48 forests dominated by non-native plants in Santa Cruz Island is the recently
49 denominated *Cedrela odorata* (hereafter also called *Cedrela*) novel forest (Rivas *et al.*
50 unpublished data). This forest is canopy-dominated by the tree *C. odorata* and is also
51 recording a high richness and diversity of non-native plants (Rivas *et al.* unpub. data).

52 A recent study comparing a native forest against a patch of *Cedrela* novel
53 forest in one of the inhabited islands of Galápagos, suggests the presence of *Cedrela*
54 tree probably explains the higher non-native richness and diversity, currently recorded
55 in this newly formed site (Rivas *et al.* unpub. data). This means that some facilitation
56 mechanisms, i.e. some conditions that are altered by *Cedrela* and that are helping to
57 non-native species outcompete natives, might be acting in this forest and may explain
58 biotic differences of exotic plants in this site.

59 Investigations on other species of the family Meliaceae, including *Cedrela* have
60 suggested that several taxa under this genus can produce a chemical compound
61 (also known as cedrelanolid or a photogedunin), responsible of inhibiting
62 germination and plant growth of other co-existing species (Céspedes *et al.* 2001,
63 Isman 1997). Thus, it can be expected that the production of such chemical is also
64 occurring in *C. odorata* and might be the mechanism directly or indirectly preventing
65 native species establishment (and thus higher non-native dominance) in the areas
66 were this invasive tree dominates.

67 However, no studies have analyzed if *Cedrela* has an allelopathic effect that
68 can explain the impacts this tree has caused to the native flora of the Galapagos
69 Islands. Therefore, the relevance of this study was to provide a hypothetical
70 framework to elucidate if the presence of this invasive organism is facilitating the

71 colonization and establishment of other non-native plants. In this contribution the
72 results of an experimental study are presented including native and invasive species
73 found in a *Cedrela* novel site, in order to test the allelopathic effect of *Cedrela*.
74 Specifically the impact of leaf and root extracts of *C. odorata* were tested over
75 germination and growth of native and invasive species in Santa Cruz. Additionally,
76 soil chemistry analyses were performed of the samples irrigated with root and with
77 leaf extract, to see if the composition of soils is somehow affected by these
78 treatments.

79 MATERIALS AND METHODS

80 *Study area.*-The Galapagos Islands are an archipelago formed by a group of islands
81 of volcanic origin, located around 1000 km west of the Pacific coast of Ecuador
82 (Figure 1). The directorate of the Galápagos National Park (GNP) is controlling and
83 monitoring introduced plants into the protected area, which consists approximately
84 97% of the archipelago. Human settlements are located in the remaining 3% of the
85 land that is also intended for agriculture and livestock (Figure 1). Native organisms
86 living in Galápagos, as occurs in other oceanic islands, are being affected by the
87 intentional or accidental introduction of foreign species. Updated studies on this issue
88 reported that approximately 880 plant species have been introduced to the
89 archipelago, which is almost twice the number of natives (Gardener *et al.* 2010). In
90 2011 around 15% of the introduced exotic species were categorized as invasive
91 (Atkinson *et al.* 2011).

92 A considerable number of programs have been created to eradicate or at least
93 contain these invasive species, given the number of detrimental impacts of some of

94 these plants. In Galápagos the eradication programs of alien species have had mixed
95 results (Gardener *et al.* 2010). For instance, the successful removal of feral cattle
96 from degraded areas on San Cristobal Island, allowed previously contained guava
97 *Psidium guajava* to grow rapidly into dense, extensive areas of shrubs (Zavaleta *et al.*
98 2001). Nevertheless the archipelago still has islands free of introduced species and
99 ecosystems that exhibit acceptable conservation conditions (Gardener and Grenier
100 2011). On the other hand, inhabited areas in the archipelago that have been
101 historically degraded due to anthropogenic activities, contain the majority of the
102 recorded non-native and invasive species which are mostly occupying the wet
103 highlands (from 250 m.a.s.l above) (Mauchamp and Atkinson 2010).

104 The highlands of Santa Cruz (the island with the highest human population)
105 have been particularly impacted by invasive species and land clearing, due to the
106 benign climatic conditions for agroforestry practices. This has resulted in around 86%
107 of the original land cover to be radically transformed (Watson *et al.* 2010, Mauchamp
108 and Atkinson 2010, Guézou *et al.* 2010).

109 *Case study species.- Cedrela odorata* (Meliaceae:Magnoliidae) is a shade tolerant
110 tree that was introduced to Santa Cruz in the late 40's, for its timber value and is
111 today, recorded in four islands: Santa Cruz, San Cristobal, Isabela and Floreana
112 (Lundh 2006). Another report indicates that *Cedrela* was also planted in the mid
113 1960's to create a fence indicating the limit of the reserve area (deVries *com. pers.*).
114 The largest population of *Cedrela* is recorded currently in Santa Cruz where it virtually
115 dominates an area that extends to the "buffer zone" on the border of GNP (Figure 1).
116 This area is now being denominated "*Cedrela* novel forest", because it shows a very

117 dense canopy covering of this species and the forest floor has a “carpet” of its aborted
118 leaves (G. Rivas *et al.* unpub. data). Previously, the site was composed by species
119 from the lowlands and highlands, among which the endemic tree *Scalesia*
120 *pedunculata* was dominating the native canopy (Itow 1995). To date, *Cedrela* forests
121 cover about 28% of the historical range previously occupied by the native forest of
122 Santa Cruz (Trueman *et al.* 2014).

123 In Galápagos, *Cedrela* can grow up to 30 meters tall and may have produced
124 on average 40-50 wind-dispersed winged seeds per fruit (Cintron 1990). When this
125 non-native tree fruits (December to March) during wet season, it generally sheds its
126 leaves before the process begins, although some individuals lose their leaves in other
127 seasons (G. Rivas *pers. obs.*). A recent study has found that plant composition of
128 *Cedrela* forest is different from historical forests (Trueman *et al.* 2014) and is also
129 different from other native forests that are dominated by the *Scalesia pedunculata*
130 tree (Rivas *et al.* unpub. data).

131 *Other native and invasive species.*- To test the allelopathic effect of *Cedrela* over
132 other native and invasive plants seven species were included in the experimental
133 study. Four native species namely *Scalesia pedunculata* Hook. F. (code name S.
134 *pen*), *Psychotria rufipes* Hook. F. (*P. ruf*), *Psidium galapageium* Hook. F., (*P. gal*) and
135 *Zanthoxylum fagara* L. Sarg. (*Z. fag*) were used as the indigenous taxa. Of these
136 species, the first four are described as endemic for the Galápagos (Guézou *et al.*
137 2014). In addition, three invasive plants were included in the experiment: *Cestrum*
138 *auriculatum* L'Hér., (code name *C. aur*), *Psidium guajava* L. (*P. gua*) and *Rubus*
139 *niveus* Thunb., (*R. niv*). Code names are used in figures and tables. All these invasive

140 species are recorded in the *Cedrela* forest and are known to cause pervasive effects
141 over other native plants (Renteria and Buddenhagen 2006).

142 *Plant material collection.*- Seeds from the eight different species were collected in July
143 to December of 2012, and saved in refrigeration, to guarantee the seeds were not
144 killed after preservation. Seedlings of the eight species were collected in the
145 surrounding ecosystems (including the *Cedrela* novel forest) of Santa Cruz from July
146 2012 to February 2013 and transported immediately to the GNP greenhouse, where
147 they were planted in a generic soil used in this facility and kept under the same
148 climatic conditions. All plants were acclimated for a maximum of two months before
149 starting the experiments.

150 *Cedrela collection for extracts.*- Mature leafs from branches attached to and aborted
151 from adult individuals of *Cedrela*, located in the forest dominated by this tree, were
152 collected early in the morning, before every time an extract was prepared to be used
153 in the experiment. Also, roots from adult *Cedrela* individuals, in the same novel forest,
154 were excavated and cut in small pieces of around 20 x 20 cm. As for leaves, roots
155 were collected fresh for every new extract application.

156 *Extract preparation:* Collected *Cedrela* leaves and roots were transported to the
157 greenhouse where the fresh material was infused into rain water recently collected at
158 this facility. Specifically, leaves were broken into smaller pieces to occupy 1/3 of a 50 l
159 plastic container. The rest of the container was filled with rainwater and left to rest for
160 at least 3 hours. The same procedure, with the same quantities was applied for the
161 collected *Cedrela* root material.

162 *Experimental design.*-A total of 24 plastic germination trays divided in 18 slots were
163 filled with germination soil used at the greenhouse. In each of the slots of the plastic

164 trays seeds of the treated plants were sowed (Table 1). Differences in seed numbers
165 were due to the seeds size variation among the species. There were a total of 24
166 trays (three per species) that were randomly assigned to one of the three treatments:
167 leaves extract, roots extract and control (rain water).

168 To test the potential effect of *Cedreia* roots and leaves chemicals over
169 germination, a leaf extract was applied to 8 trays (one per species), containing the
170 seeds that were planted before. This same scheme was applied to the 8 trays
171 assigned for the roots infusion treatment. The remaining 8 trays were assigned for
172 control, meaning that they were only irrigated with rain water. Treatments and control
173 were applied on a weekly basis from May 15th to August 12th 2013. The experiment
174 ended when all the species germinated and emergent seedlings were already
175 providing shade to the non-germinated seeds.

176 To test the potential effect of *Cedreia* roots and leaves chemicals over
177 seedlings growth, in the same greenhouse, but in separated benches, a total of 120
178 seedlings per species were located (except for *P. rufipes* which had only 105
179 individuals due to lack of material) that were already planted and passed through
180 acclimation in this facility. A total of 40 seedlings or one third of individuals per
181 species were randomly assigned to receive the different *Cedreia* extract treatments.
182 Infusions applied to seedlings were prepared exactly as described for the germination
183 trials. Treatments for seedlings were applied the same days as for the germination
184 trials. Even though all seeds and seedlings were under the same light and climatic
185 conditions, seed trays and seedlings were moved every two weeks to ensure the
186 results were not biased due to differences in any characteristic in the area designated

187 inside the GNP greenhouse. This area was covered with transparent plastic to
188 prevent precipitation from altering watering regimes.

189 *Data collection* .-Plastic trays containing the seeds of the target species were
190 surveyed every week for a total of 12 weeks to record positive germination, the
191 number of germinated seeds per treatment. Meanwhile, germination time was
192 calculated as the number of weeks until germination for each species.

193 To evaluate if composition of soil is affected by *Cedrela* root and leaf extracts,
194 a sample of soil was collected only for three species, namely *C. auriculatum*, *C.*
195 *odorata* and *S. pedunculata*. These three species were chosen from the eight
196 because: 1) Galápagos does not have a certified soil laboratory; therefore, transport
197 of samples to the continent became very expensive. 2) One of the objectives of this
198 study was to contrast these two invasive species against the endemic *S. pedunculata*
199 tree competitor; and, 3) these three species showed in a preliminary analysis
200 apparent significant variation among treatments. Soil analyses were performed to the
201 entire germination tray per treatment for these three species, because laboratory
202 methodology required at least half a kilo (500 gr.) of a mixed sample to run soil tests.
203 This might have affected replication for posterior analyses.

204 On the other hand, to evaluate the potential allelopathic effect of *Cedrela* over
205 seedling height (in cm from the base to the apex of each individual) of eight target
206 plants height differences for each different treatment were recorded from May 15th to
207 September 14th 2013. Additionally, after the seedling experiment ended, a subset of
208 30 individuals per species (10 per treatment) was randomly cropped from the original
209 group of seedlings. Each individual of the subset was immediately dried and
210 posteriorly weighted at the Charles Darwin Foundation herbarium facilities.

211 *Data analyses.*-To analyze treatments' effects over germination percentage and time,
212 and seedling growth and dry weight, Mann-Whitney tests were performed (using
213 JMP® software v.10.0, SAS Institute, US, 2012) for each of these parameters. This
214 test was done for each plant species used in this investigation in order to understand
215 the effects of treatment by each species. This non-parametric test was chosen after
216 testing for data parameters such as distribution and homogeneity of variance In
217 relation to soil samples, also, Mann-Whitney tests were used to analyze the physical
218 (i.e. pH, organic matter, ion exchange, conductivity) and chemical (Ca, N, P, K, Mg,
219 S) variables to each sample for the three different treatments.

220 RESULTS

221 *Germination.*- Overall, results showed that no effect of leaf and root infusions over
222 germination percentage (Mann-Whitney: 0.28, $p=0.86$, S.error ± 5.0) and seed
223 germination time (Mann-Whitney: 1.41, $p:0.49$, S. error ± 0.18). However, significant
224 variations among the different species on both germination percentage (Mann-
225 Whitney 21.08 $p=0.003$) and germination time were found (Mann-Whitney: 247
226 $p=0.0001$), independently of the applied treatment (Figure 3A). This means,
227 germination percentages and time presented species specific variations. For instance,
228 only two endemic species, namely *P. rufipes* (Mann-Whitney 21.0 $p=0.0001$ DF= 2)
229 and *P. galapaguensis* (Mann-Whitney 36 $p=0.0001$ DF=2) were negatively affected by
230 *Cedrela* extracts (Figure 2). Also, *S. pedunculata* and *C. odorata* germinated on
231 average seven weeks earlier than species like *P. rufipes* and *Z. fagara* (Figure
232 3B). Additionally, species like *P. galapageium* and *C. odorata* presented germination

233 percentages higher than 50% (independent of the treatment), while species like *S.*
234 *pedunculata* and *Z. fagara* recorded less than 10% of germination (Figure 3A).

235 *Growth.*- Overall, results showed that invasive species grew more than their native
236 counterparts (Mann-Whitney: 195, $p=0.0001$). Also, no effect of treatment over plant
237 height was found (Mann-Whitney: 2.94, $p=0.22$, S.dev.=14.84, S. error ± 0.48).
238 However height of some species was affected distinctively by either the leaf (Mann-
239 Whitney: 214.7, $p=0.0001$) or root (Mann-Whitney: 155.9, $p=0.0001$) treatments
240 (Figure 4). Among the affected plants, *S. pedunculata* growth, showed to be the only
241 native species negatively affected (Mann-Whitney: 23.02, $p=0.0001$) in this parameter
242 by the leaf and root treatments.

243 *Dry weight.*- As for plant growth, in general dry weight was not affected by the leaf
244 and root treatments applied to the different seedlings (Mann-Whitney:1.08, $p:0.58$).
245 However, when each species was analyzed individually, again the native plants *S.*
246 *pedunculata* and one other resident species namely *P. rufipes*, showed significantly
247 lower dry weights with the leaf and root treatments (Figure 4). For instance the dry
248 weight of *S. pedunculata* was significantly lower for the individuals treated with root
249 infusion (Mann-Whitney:4.00, $p:0.04$), while *P. rufipes* dry weight was significantly
250 affected by both the root and the leaf extracts from *Cedrela* (Mann-Whitney:7.94,
251 $p:0.018$) (Figure 5).

252 *Physical and chemical soil analyses.*- The analyses of soil samples for each treatment
253 from the trays where *C. odorata*, *C. auriculatum* and *S.pedunculata* were planted, did
254 not show significant differences among the physical and chemical characteristics
255 (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

256

257 This study provided evidence of the allelopathic effect of an invasive tree in the
258 Galapagos Islands. Specifically of how the leaf and root extracts of this tree may
259 apparently affect growth of some native plant species that are important components
260 of the resident ecosystems of this archipelago (Rivas *et al.* unpubl. data).

261

The fact that *Cedrela* extracts were not affecting germination percentage and
262 time and, that these seed parameters - important for plant performance - were better
263 explained by species differences, may also contribute to explain *Cedrela* novel forest
264 plant composition. Invasive species such as *C. odorata*, *P. guajava* and *C.*
265 *auriculatum* showed to have germinated in large amounts and relatively faster than
266 most of the native species used in this experiment (Figure 3B). This means that
267 invasive species, such as *Cedrela*, apart from having an advantage over native
268 species due to allelopathic mechanisms, present seed traits that allow them to have
269 an early competitive advantage over their resident counterparts. These advantages
270 may help these invasive species in the long term, to outcompete and exclude native
271 recruits from the *Cedrela* novel forest by having earlier access to available resources
272 like light. Thus, allowing invasive species to dominate this site. Results obtained with
273 this experiment, regarding the lack of allelopathic effects over seed germination of
274 invasive species, differ from other studies in different plant species and habits. Sheng
275 Z. (2007) studied the effect of *Eupatorium adenophorum* extracts over germination
276 and seedling growth of 16 species of pasture. *E.adenophorum*. According to Sheng's
277 results, extracts proved to have a retarding effect on germination vigor of most
278 pastures, but few species showed inhibition in germination or death rate. Hence, this
279 make us speculate that allelopathic mechanisms are species specific and need to be

280 evaluated in a species by species basis and for different parameters related to seed
281 germination traits. For instance, *S. pedunculata* presented a fast germination (Figure
282 2), similar to other invasive species, but had a very low germination rate in
283 comparison with the exotic plants (Figure 3A). This pattern may contribute to explain
284 the almost total absence of *S. pedunculata* trees in the *Cedrela* forest site, and how
285 this endemic tree can be replaced by other exotic species that now dominate the
286 canopy of invaded areas (Rivas *et al.* unpub. data). These findings may need to be
287 validated by studies performed inside the own *Cedrela* forest, where this tree
288 dominates, to evaluate if other important conditions for germination, such as water
289 availability, or other abiotic factors are influencing seedling emergence. In addition,
290 such experimental studies could also incorporate the mechanical extraction of
291 *Cedrela*, to assess if the exclusion of this tree and the potential allelopathic effects it
292 has over native species, disappears after the invasive tree is removed.

293 On the other hand, endemic species for these islands such as *S. pedunculata*
294 and *P. rufipes* showed to have significantly less growth when exposed to *Cedrela* leaf
295 and root extracts (Figure 5). This result, particularly regarding lower growth by *S.*
296 *pedunculata* due to allelopathy, could have an important ecological implication when
297 explaining the almost complete exclusion of *S. pedunculata* and the higher non-native
298 richness and dominance recorded in the *Cedrela* novel forest (Rivas *et al.* unpub.
299 data). This also could be interpreted as an additional factor to germination
300 disadvantages. *S. pedunculata* and *P. rufipes* (both endemic) seedlings are also
301 susceptible to chemical weapons produced by the dominant *Cedrela* tree, diminishing
302 even more the probabilities of individuals of these indigenous plants to establish in

303 novel areas. The fact that plant material extracts affect other species has been proven
304 in other invasive plants, also providing additional evidence of the competitive
305 advantage they represent for the invasive allelopathic organisms, and for other non-
306 native species (Hierro and Callaway 2003; Sheng *et al.* 2007; Imatomi *et al.* 2015).
307 Follow up studies are also needed regarding the novel *C. odorata* forest that
308 contemplate how other important factors for seedling growth, such as water
309 availability, are contributing to the competitive exclusion of species like *S.*
310 *pedunculata* and other native species in this invaded site.

311 As mentioned, the exclusion of *S. pedunculata* from this novel forest has
312 important implications that may explain the formation of a novel forest in the sites
313 invaded by *Cedrela*. It also helps to elucidate why natural regeneration is apparently
314 not occurring in this invaded forest. Under natural conditions *S. pedunculata* presents
315 a die off mechanism where adults of the same or similar cohorts die in synchrony
316 contributing to native regeneration and mainly aiding other *S. pedunculata* individuals
317 to have the light necessary to re-colonize open areas (Itow 1995). This population
318 mechanism is apparently now truncated due to the exclusion of *S. pedunculata* from
319 the communities it used to dominate (such as the site where *Cedrela* now dominates)
320 (Rivas *et al.* unpub. data), and the hypothetical advantages –including negative
321 allelopathy- other invasive plants are having over this resident tree species.

322 This study did not find any apparent chemical and physical alteration of some
323 important characteristics of the soils subjected to *Cedrela* extracts, that could explain
324 the mechanisms involved in the negative effects of treatments over native species
325 seedlings (Tablr 2). Relevant investigations analyzing allelopathic effects of other

326 trees from the Meliaceae family and different herb species, found that the compounds
327 of the attacking organisms were mainly affecting the development of roots of the co-
328 occurring resident plants (Lawan *et al.* 2011; Butcko and Jensen 2002). The particular
329 alteration of roots characteristics were not analyzed by this study due to logistic
330 constraints and will certainly need to be included in future related investigations. This
331 may help explain the mechanisms that cause less growth of native seedlings. Results
332 of this study will contribute to the knowledge regarding *Cedrela* allelopathic capacity
333 and will mainly help to inform managers involved in restoration of invaded areas by
334 this and other invasive species in this unique archipelago.

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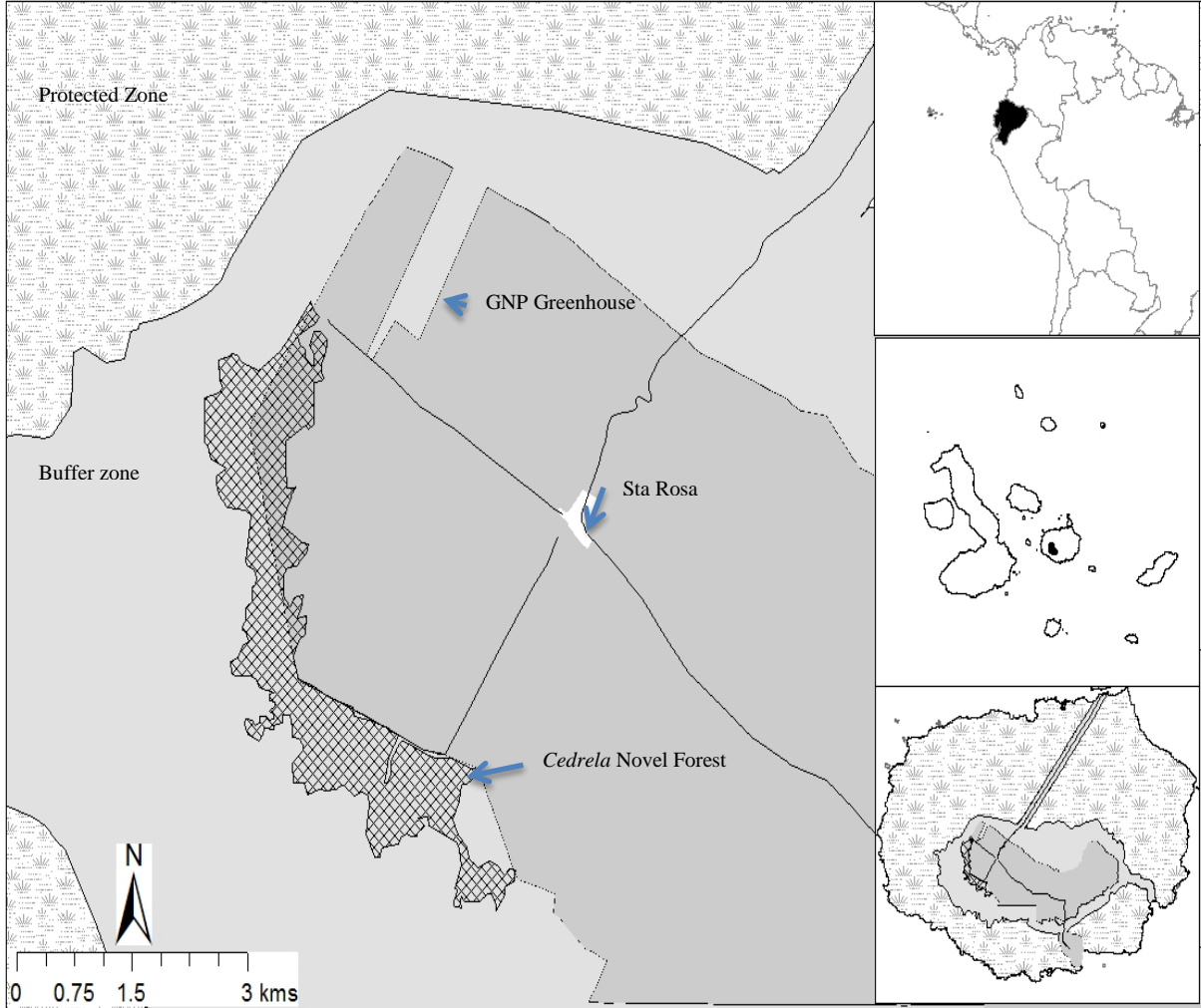


Figure 1. Map showing in the upper insert (right): the location of Galapagos in-front of the South American continent; and below: the location of Santa Cruz island within the archipelago. The map also shows the land uses distribution where Buffer and Protected zones are under preservation, while the Agricultural zone is under constant human pressures. *Cedrela* novel forest is located in the south-western portion of Santa Cruz and the GNP greenhouse is located just a few kilometers from this invaded site.

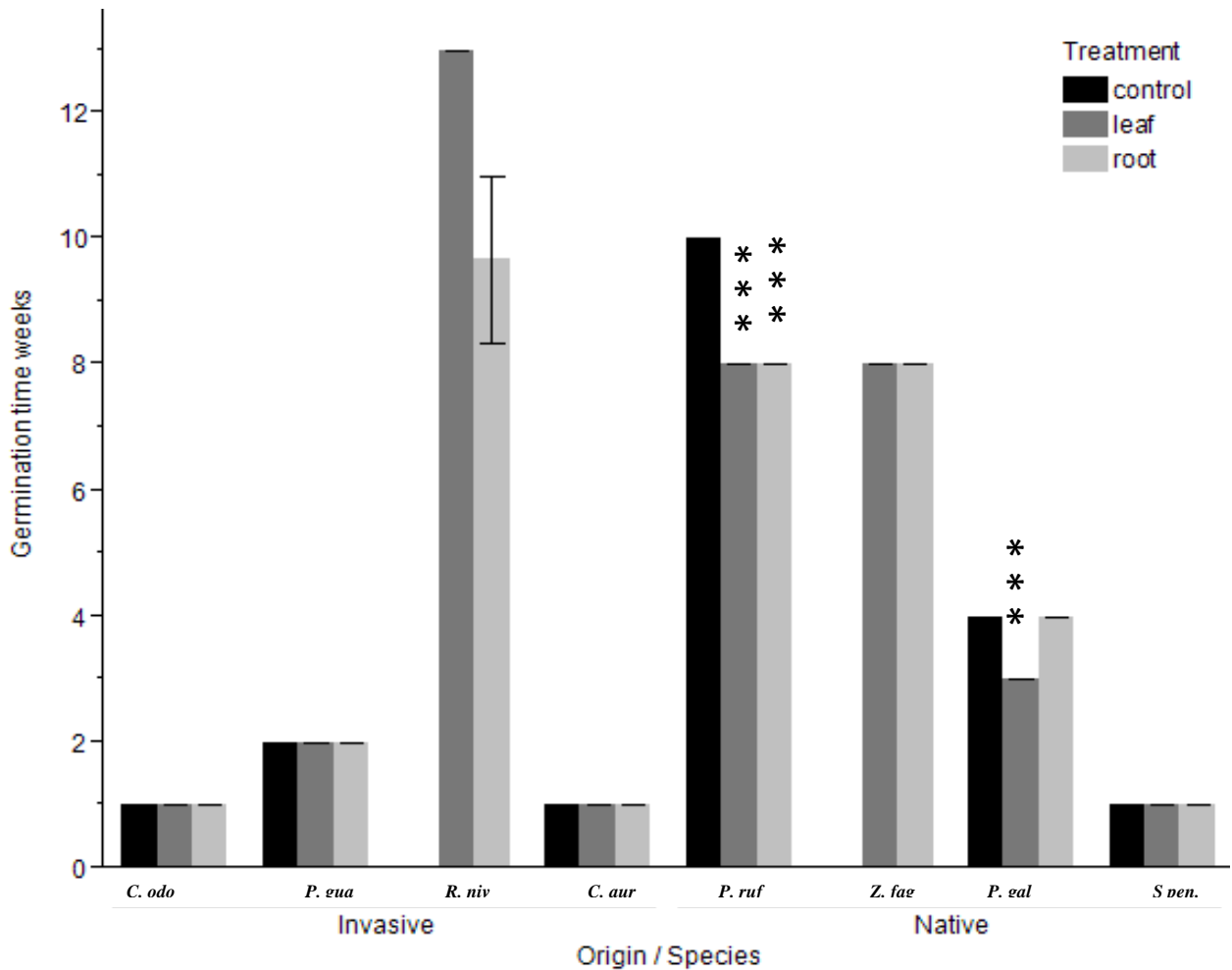


Figure 2. Graph showing the germination time in weeks per species according to their origin (invasive / native). The native *Psychotria rufipes* was negatively affected by both leaf and root extract when compared to control. Also a native plant species, namely *Psidium galapagensis* was affected by leaf extract. Statistical significance: one asterisk = marginally significant or $p < 0.05$; two asterisks = significant or $p < 0.01$; and three asterisks = highly significant or $p < 0.001$.

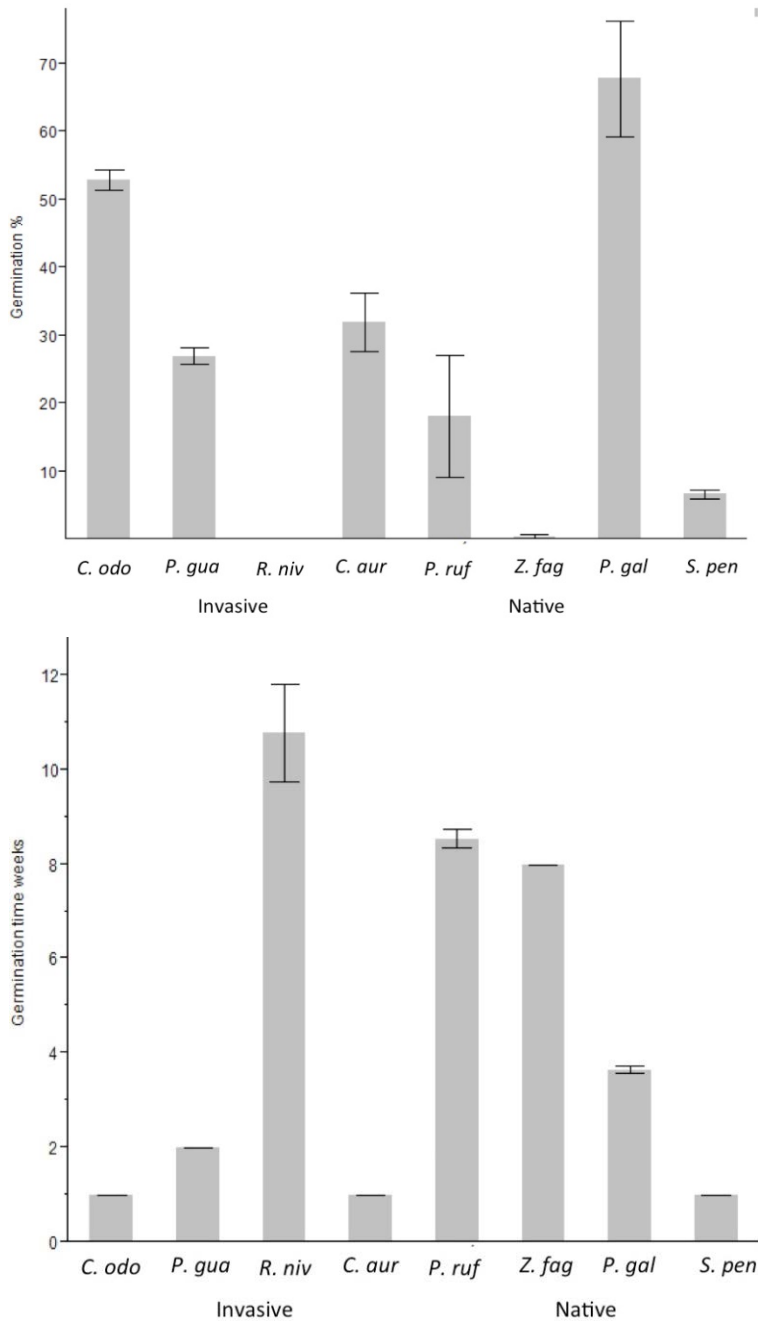


Figure 3. Graph showing: A. the germination percentages for each of the eight target species and; B. the average time of germination (in weeks) for the same eight plants. For the entire name codes please see the Materials and Methods section. Bars represent the standard error for the sample.

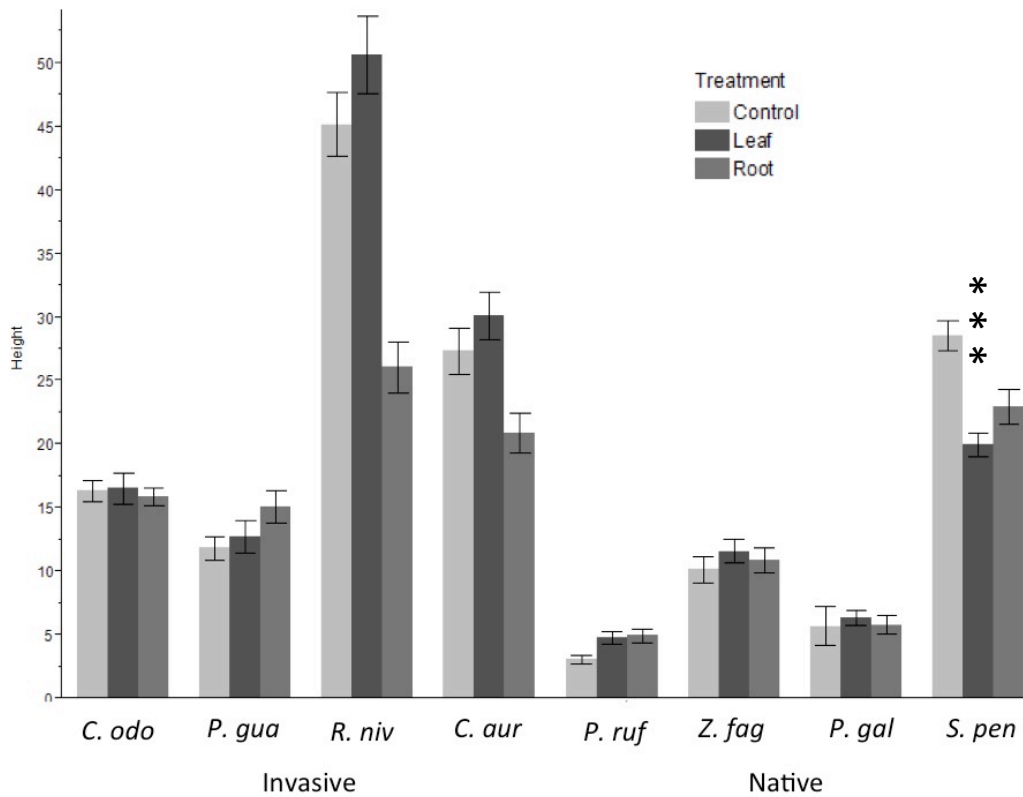


Figure 4. Average height (in centimeters) per treatment for the eight target species of this study. Note that among native species, only *Scaevola pedunculata* (*S. pen*) growth was negatively affected by the *Cedrela* extractions. For statistical significance (*) please refer to Figure 2.

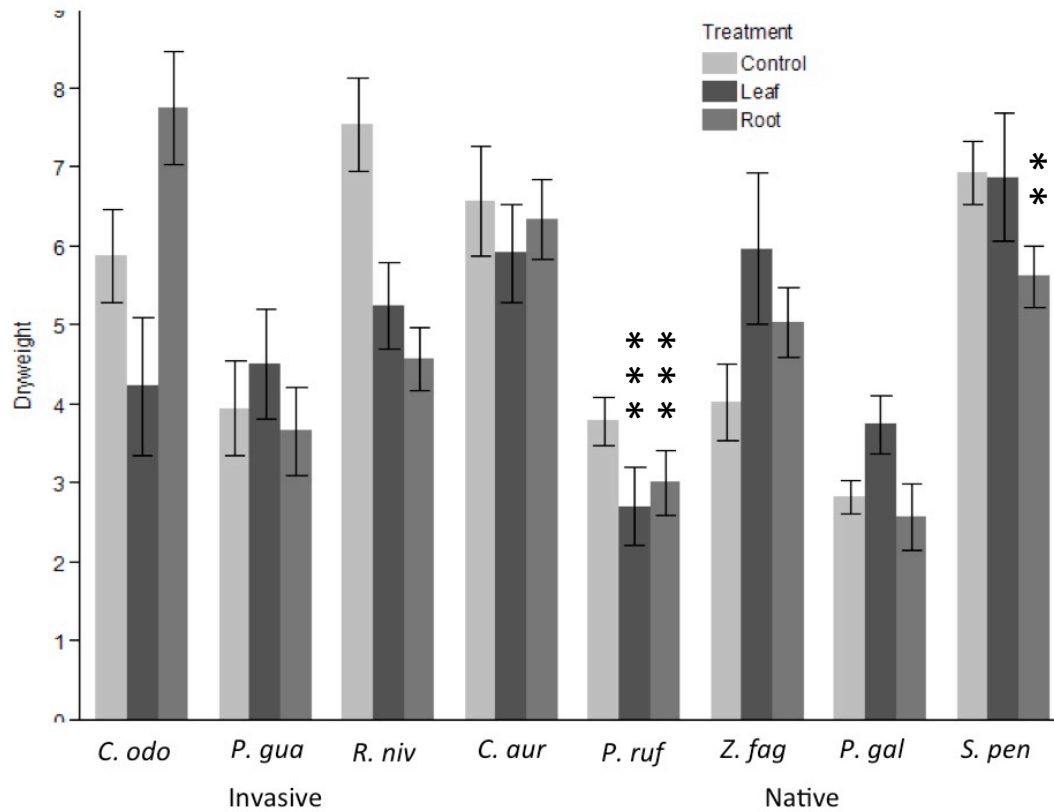


Figure 5. Average dry weight (in grams) per treatment for the eight target species of this study. Note that the natives *Psychotria rufipes* (*P. ruf*) and *Scalesia pedunculata* (*S. pen*) were the only resident species to be affected by the *Cedrele* extractions. For statistical significance (*) please refer to Figure 2.

Table 1. Detail of the number of seed sowed per species and treatment for the germination experiment

Species	No. of seeds/slot	Total No. of seeds/tray or treatment ¹	Number of trays/species*
<i>Psidium galapageium</i>	5	90	3
<i>Psychotria rufipes</i>	5	90	3
<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	5	90	3
<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	5	90	3
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	15	270	3
<i>Cestrum auriculatum</i>	15	270	3
<i>Rubus niveus</i>	15	270	3
<i>Scalesia pedunculata</i>	25	450	3

*One tray was assigned to each treatment (1 tray for leaf extract, 1 tray for root extract, 1 tray for control)

¹ Considering each tray has 18 slots.

Table 2. Chemical and Physical values for the germination soil samples for three target species *Scalesia pedunculata*, *Cestrum auriculatum* and *Cedrela odorata* used in this investigation.

Species	Origin	Treatment	Ph (NA)	Conductivity (dS/M)	Organic Matter (%)	Total Nitrogen (%)	Assimilable Phosphorus (ppm P)	Assimilable Potassium (meq K/100 mL)	Interchangeable Calcium (meq Ca/100 mL)	Interchangeable Magnesium (meq Mg/100 mL)	Sulfur (ppm)	Ion exchange	Ca/Mg	Mg/K	Ca+Mg/K
<i>S. pen</i>	Nat	leaf	6.51	0.24	65.9	3.29	22	2.05	63.73	21.05	0	85.2	3	10	41.4
<i>C. aur</i>	Inv	leaf	6.74	0.31	64.6	3.23	14.8	1.79	63.99	19.75	0	84.1	3.2	11	46.8
<i>C. odo</i>	Inv	leaf	6.74	0.25	66.58	3.33	17.5	2.56	58.65	26.21	0	85.4	2.1	10	33.1
<i>S. pen</i>	Nat	control	6.7	0.38	66.58	3.33	21.1	1.54	58.59	22.93	0	82	2.6	15	52.9
<i>C. aur</i>	Inv	control	6.75	0.26	56.6	2.82	25.1	1.28	62.81	14.4	0	77.7	4.4	11	60.3
<i>C. odo</i>	Inv	control	6.68	0.29	63.71	3.19	20.9	1.79	59.08	23.21	0	82.8	2.5	13	46
<i>S. pen</i>	Nat	root	6.51	0.35	66.41	3.32	22.3	2.05	62.35	18.94	0	81.8	3.3	9.2	39.7
<i>C. aur</i>	Inv	root	6.58	0.3	60.5	3.03	17.8	1.54	59.61	22.79	0	82.7	2.6	15	53.5
<i>C. odo</i>	Inv	root	6.71	0.28	65.19	3.21	26.1	1.54	58.12	20.91	0	79.4	2.8	14	51.3

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