

Dear Editor:

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “**Stomatal density, leaf and plant size of the red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle* L.) along contrasting salinities in the Mexican Caribbean**”.

The aim of this work was to evaluate the effects of salinity on leaf size, stomatal density and plant size in *Rhizophora mangle*. In this study we found that while leaf size decreased with increasing salinity stomatal densities were similar regardless of leaf size, suggesting a similar stomatal conductance per unit area leaf area but greater transpiration in larger leaves. To our knowledge, this is the first report on the plasticity of stomatal densities as a function of salinity in mangroves. We believe the manuscript fits the aim and scope of *the Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation*, since it deals with leaf structural and ecophysiological adaptations of a tropical key species. All authors have participated in data analysis and manuscript elaboration and agree with content of the manuscript. This is an original paper which has not been published before or simultaneously in other journals. All ethical requirements have been met and we declare no conflict of interest in any way. We agree to pay additional fees for publication if necessary.

I am looking forward to your favourable consideration for review.

Sincerely,



Joanne R. Peel.



Dra. María del Carmen Mandujano,



Dr. Jordan Golubov,



Dr. Jorge López Portillo

Possible reviewers:

Dr. Rodrigo Méndez Alonzo

Laboratorio de Plantas y Ecosistemas
Departamento de Biología de la Conservación
División de Biología Experimental y Aplicada
Centro de Investigación Científica y Educación Superior de Ensenada, BC, México
Carretera Ensenada-Tijuana No. 3918, Zona Playitas,
C.P. 22860, Ensenada, B. C. México.
Teléfono: 01 (646) 175-05-00 ext. 27267
mendezal@cicese.mx

Dr. Margarita Elizabeth Gallegos Martínez

UAM-Iztapalapa
Prol. Canal de Miramontes 3855, Tlalpan, Ex Hacienda San Juan de Dios, 14387 Ciudad de México, D.F.
gmm@xanum.uam.mx; magalilith@gmail.com

Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra

Professor of Ecology (Ph.D., University College of North Wales, Bangor)
UC Mexus Office: 3324 Olmstead Hall
Mexus Office Phone: (951) 827-3519
BPS Office: 3125 Batchelor Hall
BPS Lab Phone: (951) 827-2869
exequiel@ucr.edu