

M.Sc. thesis opportunity studying wood traits along environmental gradients at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle – Jena – Leipzig (Germany):

An opportunity for a Master thesis is open at the **Evolution and Adaptation** research group at the German Centre of Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) in Leipzig - Germany. The topic of the thesis is centered on the study of wood functional trait and climatic variation along an environmental gradient with a focus on the species *Enterolobium cyclocarpum*. The species of study is a Neotropical deciduous tree, found in seasonally tropical dry forests from central Mexico to northern South America. The project is part of a PhD research on the drivers of adaptation to drought on *E. cyclocarpum* along water stress gradients in dry forests from Colombia, for which genomic (RAD-seq) and functional trait data are being currently collected and generated.

Tasks of the master student:

- Participation in field work activities in Colombia for trait data collection (**optional**).
- Processing of wood samples.
- Analysis of wood traits (wood density, vessel density, vessel diameter, porosity, fiber length and tracheid length among others).
- Assessing the link between wood traits and climatic variation.
- Participation in co-authored publications.

The master student will be supervised by the doctoral student, Francisco Velásquez, and Dr. Renske Onstein (leader of the Evolution and Adaptation group at iDiv).

If you are motivated and feel this topic is of your interest then please send your C.V. (including skills and courses taken) along with a short motivation letter to: francisco.velasquez_puentes@idiv.de

