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Tropical forest responses to drought and warming

Wednesday 15 May 2013, 1pm

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Slatyer Seminar Room, R.N. Robertson Building (Bldg. 46), Linnaeus Way, ANU



Forest ecosystems cover approximately one third of the land surface and substantially influence global cycles of carbon, water and energy. Tropical forests are the most biodiverse and productive of natural forest ecosystems and yet our knowledge of their functioning and likely response to climate is limited compared with others. Two important environmental drivers of change in forests are drought and warming. Observational and modelling studies of tropical forests have shown that both have the potential to substantially alter the terrestrial carbon cycle. I discuss two large-scale field studies addressing these questions. First, I will examine the use of experimental drought to inform our understanding of the response by rainforest to soil moisture stress, with a current focus on addressing the effects on tree mortality. Second, I will describe the use of a montane-to-lowland tropical forest transect spanning 3 km in elevation to study the influence of temperature on the largest respiratory term in the terrestrial carbon cycle, the flux of CO₂ from soil.

Presented by

Research School of
Biology

ANU College of
Medicine, Biology
& Environment

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This lecture is free and open to the public

Plant Science Seminar Series information:

<http://biology.anu.edu.au/News/events-ps.php>

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