

## **MAMMALS**

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### **Small mammals as potential seed predators of *Maesopsis eminii***

#### **Abstract**

Rodent preference for *Maesopsis eminii* was investigated. Propogules in different stages of development (ripe, unripe, seed, nut and nutcase) were offered in paired plots under *M. eminii* trees and under a native forest tree species. Small mammal activity in each of the plots was monitored using track plots. The information was supplemented by setting up two rodent trapping grids. Small mammals were active in the experimental area, although they were not all frugivores. Small mammals selected for bare seeds and ripe fruits and the preference did not differ between the paired plots. Total propagule utilisation decreased with increased % of woody debris cover only under *M. eminii* plots. Rodents were not shown to be important sources of *M. eminii* seed predation and dispersal on a local scale.

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