



Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Centro de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas

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Editors

Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad

Dear Editors,

Please find enclosed the manuscript entitled “Rediscovering an extraordinary vanishing bug: *Llaveia axin axin*”. We considered submitting the manuscript to *Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad* because our research provides novel and unique information on the biology of an unusual bug (Hemiptera) species, the “aje” (*L. axin axin*). This insect has been used by indigenous populations since pre-hispanic times (i.e., medicine and artcrafts). The “aje” is a parasitic hemipteran of various tree species in tropical dry forests. However, almost nothing is known about its natural history and conservation status, at least for Mexico. The main findings of our study are that the “aje” only exists in aggregated and relict populations at low altitudes in severely transformed tropical dry forests. We also found that only one tree species hosts its populations (*Acacia cochliacantha*) and that the females were mostly found at the base of the main tree trunk. We think the “aje” is highly threatened with local extinction, due to their fragmented relict populations and rapid destruction of its habitat and host species.

More basic information on its biology and population dynamics is urgently needed to implement any conservation strategy for the species. In addition, the management of the “aje” should take into consideration biological, pharmacological and cultural connotations. We consider that our study involves a topic of great relevance for the conservation of this species as to our knowledge there is no other published information on its ecology. We suggest the following reviewers: Dr. Xenón Cano and Dr. Karina Boege (kboege@unam.mx).

We would be very grateful if you could acknowledge the arrival of the manuscript through e-mail (jbenitez@oikos.unam.mx).

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Julieta Benítez-Malvido

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