

Undergraduate Research Seminar  
Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 5:30 p.m.  
Leigh 309

**Rodrigo Rivero**

Invasibility of different forest types at UNDERC-East

BIOS 35502: Practicum in Environmental Field Biology  
Mentor: Hannah Madson

The process on invasion can be seen from the point of view of the non-native species, as well as that of the habitat. The invasibility, how likely it is to be the subject of an invasion, of a habitat can be determined by understanding the characteristics of the location and is a very important measure for ecological communities. By comparing the non-natives in different habitats, the invasibility of a habitat can be determined relative to the other, especially if the comparison is between canopy gaps as they have more resources and provide the opportunity for new species to thrive. The purpose of this study is to find if there is a difference in the non-native population of herbaceous species found in canopy gaps in coniferous and maple forests. Our predications were that coniferous forest would have less non-natives as the dominant species in the area tend to prefer more acidic soils. To test this hypothesis we surveyed the herbaceous plant species in 7 gaps in each forest type, for a total of 14, and compared the number of species, as well as the frequency of individuals using a Mann-Whitney test. Our results indicated no difference between the non-native herbaceous populations, indicating that both of them have the same level of invasibility.