

iDiv sabbatical project report

“Meta-networks of species diversity and community pollination in the Andes of Colombia”

by Sandra Cuartas, Universidad de Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia)

Scientific hosts:

Dr. Tiffany Knight

Feedback:

The objective of my sabbatical stay at iDiv was to learn about several statistical analyses related to metanetworks and the description of biodiversity of species and interactions to several spatial and temporal scales and apply them to my own data set on pollination interactions in tropical mountain forests.

I had the opportunity to discuss with people in the group of Spatial Interaction Ecology led by Dr. Tiffany Knight and the sINTERVAL working group the appropriate methods to analyze my data set and evaluate some hypotheses about the structure and functioning of pollination metanetworks in the mountain forests.

Leipzig is a beautiful, secure, and organized city. I lived in two different apartments, one month in each. It was due to it being troublesome to find apartments for short stays with enough area to live with my daughter, not too far from iDiv, and an affordable price.

The working environment was pleasant. People seemed very kind and collaborative to me. People from each research group have lunch together, so this is a nice tradition to know the people in a relaxed environment. Also, there are periodic seminars where people present results from their works and, it is possible to find people for collaborating.

The people in the administrative team were invaluable support at every step, they collaborated with all the procedures and were attentive to solving every problem that arose.

It is convenient to find a place to stay as soon as you can to obtain a good price, location and space. You can also buy a monthly card for tram and bus transportation within the city to save money.