

CNAES

HQP Research & Collaborative Exchange Funding

Visit report

A one-page report and photo (maximum 500 words) describing your visit. Include your original objective, and what you accomplished. This will be shared within the CNAES community.

1. Exchange information

Visitor: Maitane Erdozain, Project II-2 ([Effect of forest condition on food web structure and other aquatic indicators in headwater streams in different regions of Canada](#)).

Supervisor: Dr. Karen Kidd

Host: Dr. Dean Thompson and Dr. Dave Kreutzweiser

2. Goals

Dr. Dean Thompson and I are working together on a project that studies the effects of forest management activities on benthic macroinvertebrate communities and that compares how two identification techniques (metabarcoding and classic taxonomy) perform in detecting such effects. After sampling for two campaigns together and processing our respective samples separately, we are now at the stage of analyzing and comparing the data. Therefore, the main objective of my visit was to strengthen ongoing collaboration and to accelerate the writing of a scientific article.

3. Description of the visit

My visit to the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) has been a great experience, and it has been very beneficial to my project and to strengthen the collaborations with this partner lab in CNAES.

During the week I spent there we had several meetings and fruitful discussions with the people involved in this project. We were very lucky to have Dr. Terri Porter (the person in charge of analyzing the metabarcoding data) among us during that week, since we could better understand what happens between submitting the samples and getting the data, as well as how to interpret the results. We all agreed on the structure of the paper and on the statistical analyses to be conducted, as well as on the following steps that need to be taken in order to complete this work. All this meetings also helped strengthen the collaboration with Dr. Dean Thompson and other CFS members.

In addition to fully accomplishing the original objective, my project further benefited from the meetings with my supervisory committee member Dr. Dave Kreutzweiser. During those meetings we discussed my results, my thesis structure and many other topics that were very helpful to move forward with my thesis. Finally, I was very lucky to attend two seminars at the CFS that were very relevant to my project.

In conclusion, my visit to the CFS was a very positive experience and extremely beneficial to the completion of a journal article, to my PhD project and to the connectivity within CNAES.