

**Henn, Jonathan, “Beach Almond (*Terminalia catappa*) Seed Resource Size and Resource Partitioning Between the Seed Predators Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) and Variegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*).” Advisors: Michael McCoy and Christopher Vaughan. St. Olaf College. 2010. 32pp.**

Knowledge of ecological impacts of exotic beach almond (*Terminalia catappa*) in the central Pacific of Costa Rica are little known, but studies have found this species to be a potentially important food source for endangered scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*). In this study, reproductive phenology and seed predation by variegated squirrels (*Sciurus variegatoides*) and scarlet macaws were measured during March and April 2011 on beaches of central Pacific coastal Costa Rica. Seed productivity and predation levels were quantified on a weekly basis for 111 beach almond trees to quantify the importance of beach almond as a food source for scarlet macaws and the extent of resource partitioning between seed predators. Seed production of the trees was great (about 160,712 seeds) and predation of seeds was low (about 32%). Additionally, evidence of spatial and temporal resource partitioning of the seed resource between squirrels and macaws was found. Scarlet macaws preferred to feed on the outside of trees while squirrels preferred to feed on the inside of trees. Both species ate most seeds on the ocean side of the tree. The resource size and occurrence of resource partitioning indicates that beach almond is an important food resource for scarlet macaws and should be planted and conserved.