

Project Update: October 2012

During the winter season we conducted two field trips and re-sampled the 24 grids established in summer. In each grid, we set up 16 live-capture Sherman traps for trapping small mammals and they remained active for five consecutive nights. We also evaluated the goat-grazing gradient by counting fresh and old goat feces per sampling station. We capture 59 individuals of five species of small mammals (*Eligmodontia typus*, *Eligmodontia moreni*, *Graomys griseoflavus*, *Thylamys pallidior* and *Salinomys delicatus*) and medium and large mammals (grey fox, cow, horse, maras and sheep). We made small mammal microhabitat measurements and landscape structure. We took feces and tissue samples from small mammals for future analyses on diet ecology and parental relationships. We have completed the summer, autumn and winter sampling and will be starting the spring sampling in mid-October 2012. Over these 10 months, 10 volunteers from different Argentinean universities have been working on the project.



Effect of soil erosion exposed roots of *Larrea divaricata*