

## Project Update: July 2020

Generally, the project was run according to the plan and the field data collection was even completed earlier. Initially, I planned to do the project in 4 months but I could manage it to finish the project within 3.5 months. Up to now, I have shared the initial results with the nature reserve rangers and the local nature conservation agency. Fortunately, the unprecedented global health crisis less affected this field data collection has done before the disease has spread to the province where this project was undertaken. However, because all testing laboratories were closed soil chemistry analysis has to be delayed until the lab is reopened. Another issue raised in this project was one of my field assistants had an accident, so that I had to work either with other person or by myself.

Currently, I am analysing the data and writing up some drafts for publication. Once all the data is well written and analysed, I would disseminate the results both in academic forum and in popular media. The data reveals three main outcomes:

- Millipedes play a crucial role in decomposing organic matter in the forest floor, complementarily improving other litter invertebrate functionality, and maintaining decomposition resilience towards climate change.
- Creating refuges in the farmland (i.e. adding litter in the ground) and green corridors could support forest litter invertebrate mobility thus the crop could benefit from their ecosystem services.
- Completely clearing forest into open areas could disable decomposition process.



Working in the mesocosm experiment.



Forest and adjacent corn farming



*Salpidobolus* sp.