

# LEAF SIZE IN THREE GENERATIONS OF A DIOECIOUS TROPICAL TREE, *OCOTEA TENERA* (LAURACEAE): SEXUAL DIMORPHISM AND CHANGES WITH AGE<sup>1</sup>

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*Ocotea tenera* is a dioecious tropical tree in the Lauraceae family. It is native to the mountains of Central America, where it grows in primary forest. The tree is characterized by its large, leathery leaves and its ability to tolerate shade. In this study, we examine leaf size in three generations of *O. tenera*, focusing on sexual dimorphism and changes with age. We found that male leaves are generally larger than female leaves, and that leaf size increases with age in both sexes. These findings suggest that leaf size is an important trait for *O. tenera*, and that it may be related to the tree's reproductive strategy.

Leaf size is a key trait in many plants, and it can vary significantly between different species and populations. In *Ocotea tenera*, leaf size is highly variable, and it is influenced by both genetics and environment. In this study, we found that male leaves are generally larger than female leaves, and that leaf size increases with age in both sexes. These findings suggest that leaf size is an important trait for *O. tenera*, and that it may be related to the tree's reproductive strategy.

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$p < 0.0001$ ,  $OR = 5.0$

... ( > 0.10).

**Heritability estimates.**  $H^2_b$  (P..., 2012) ...  
 ... (  $h^2 = 0.63$ ,  $F = 0.48$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 0.095$ ). A ...  
 ... (  $h^2 = 0.58$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 0.14$ ).  
 ... 13. ... TJ-330. ... 339 100%

G ...  $h^2$  ...  
 ... ( .60%) ...  
 ... (F .4A). ...  
 ... ( ... = 0.52, ... = 9, ... = 0.16; F .1), ...

DICTION

... *le a* ...  
 ... (8% ... 5% ... 12% ...  
 ...  
 ... (K ...  
 ... 1994; De ... 2002), ...



