



Universidad Nacional Toribio Rodríguez de Mendoza de Amazonas - UNTRM | Chachapoyas, Amazonas - Perú

Peru, October 13, 2025

**Prof. Dr. Michael Wink**  
Editor-in-Chief  
Diversity

**Facultad de Ingeniería y  
Ciencias Agrarias**  
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Dear Editor,

I hereby enclose the manuscript entitled “Diversity and selection of superior algarrobos (*Neltuma pallida*) phenotypes in the natural dry forests of Peru for sustainable conservation and genetic improvement” by Sebastian Casas-Niño *et al.* to be considered for publication in *Diversity*.

Our research demonstrates that *Neltuma pallida*, a key species of the dry forest, exhibits high diversity among populations. The morfo-phenotypic characterization of individual trees enabled the identification of superior phenotypes exhibiting outstanding attributes. Moreover, the estimated heritability coefficients highlighted traits under stronger genetic control, indicating a greater potential response to selection. These results provide a robust foundation for future genetic improvement and conservation programs of *Neltuma pallida*, supporting ecological restoration efforts and the sustainable management of Peru’s dry forest ecosystems.

We think this manuscript is suitable for publication as the research reflects the aims and scope of your journal. We confirm that neither the manuscript nor any parts of its content are currently under consideration for publication with or published in another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to *Diversity*.

Yours sincerely,

Flavio Lozano-Isla  
Corresponding author