

Interactive comment on “Spatial distribution and functional significance of leaf lamina shape in Amazonian forest trees” by A. C. M. Malhado et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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I found the topic of the paper very interesting, the analysis extremely thorough, and the conclusions soundly-based. I have just a few comments which the authors should address.

Support for Givnish’s work verged on the sycophantic, and those papers might have been viewed in a more critical light.

There is no analysis of possible taxonomic relationships, merely a passing comment on this matter. Evolution works on a taxonomic foundation, and so one might reasonably expect that certain traits are associated with certain groups.

It wasn’t clear how compound leaves are treated. If the tree has compound leaves do the leaflets count as leaves?

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Where did samples come from, top or bottom of canopy or unknown. Botanical collectors do not always have climber-assistants, slingshots etc. In some cases there are differences between leaves at the top and bottom of the canopy.

The authors pre-suppose we have an evolutionary steady-state, i.e. leaf shape is adapted to the environment the tree finds itself in. Presumably this is far from the truth.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 6, 1837, 2009.

BGD

6, S887–S888, 2009

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