

# MBGE THESIS PROPOSAL

- 2023/2024 -

<b>TITLE</b>	Habitat characterization and abundance of lizards in agroecosystems	
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<b>SHORT ABSTRACT</b> <i>(overview, objectives and methods)</i>	<p>Within the framework of an international project aimed in investigating the role of lizards as providers of pest control in crops under different management regimes, we are reaching candidates for a master thesis project. It will be focused in quantifying the complexity and productivity of the habitat, but also the thermal and hydric variation in space and time for study sites. Remote sensing indices will be used and will be related to abundance and health status of the study sites lizards. Familiarity with GIS, R and Google Earth Engine environments is recommended. Outcomes will improve our knowledge of how the dynamics of agroecosystems impacts on reptile populations and their role as pest controllers. The results will be published in a high impact journal and will provide future research opportunities for the candidates.</p> <p><u>Relevant references:</u>            Biaggini, M. &amp; Corti, C. (2015): Reptile assemblages across agricultural landscapes: where does biodiversity hide? <i>Animal Biodiversity and Conservation</i> 38: 163-174. <a href="https://doi.org/10.32800/abc.2015.38.0163">https://doi.org/10.32800/abc.2015.38.0163</a>            Cardinale BJ, Harvey CT, Gross K, Ives AR. (2003). Biodiversity and biocontrol: Emergent impacts of a multi-enemy assemblage on pest suppression and crop yield in an agroecosystem. <i>Ecology Letters</i> 6: 857–865.</p>	
<b>PROJECT</b>	<i>Name</i>	Miguel A. Carretero
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