

Dear reader:

We are pleased to present our Special Issue on Natural Products in this 36<sup>th</sup> issue of La Granja. A Natural Product is understood as any biomolecule that has a benefit for human beings, in areas such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food and industrial products in general. The abundance of Natural Products is in accordance with the biodiversity that a region or country may have; therefore, they are valuable goods for nations having these resources in their territory.

In this issue of La Granja we present research on this subject. First, there is a paper from Panama written by Karol Gutiérrez-Pineda and Misay Herrera, who describe the qualitative phytochemistry of the species *Terminalia Catappa* L. (Panama Almond), in several extracts, giving a first look at possible applications of the plant. It is a study conducted by Fundación Pro-Conservación de los Primates Panameños (FCPP), and Sociedad Mesoamericana para la Biología y la Conservación de la Naturaleza (SMBC).

From Ecuador, Anderson Pazmiño and his team from the Technical University of Manabí, the Agrarian University of Ecuador and Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral work with essential oils of cinnamon and oregano incorporated in biodegradable films to measure their potential for inhibiting bacteria, and propose them as preservation additives in the food industry. In the miscellaneous section, in the area of conservation, researchers from Universidad Antonio Nariño and Fundación Universitaria Agraria de Colombia, in a paper led by Olga Lozano Camelo, present strategies for the modified preservation and description of *Batrachochytrium Dendrobatidis* Fungalysin. Regarding sustainable development, Miguel García-Parra and leading researchers from prestigious universities: Universidad del Cauca, Fundación Universitaria Juan de Castellanos, Universidad Nacional Abierta y a Distancia and Universidad Nacional de Colombia,

along with Universidad de Concepción de Chile, present a Literature review on one of the most current topics: the Sustainable Development Goals in the American region.

Likewise, Adán Ramírez García and his team from Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, along with Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora of Mexico and Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral del Ecuador, present the adaptive capacities of coffee and cocoa crops in possible climate change scenarios, one of the main concerns in food sovereignty. While in Hydrology, Mario Guallpa, Rolando Céleri and Patricio Crespo, from the University of Cuenca and ETAPA del Ecuador, demonstrate the effect of the theoretical discharge coefficient of landfills on the measurement of flows in our Andean rivers.

There are two contributions in the field of environmental pollution. The first refers to the effectiveness on the use of diatoms in wastewater filtration, a study led by Cristian Joao Vázquez, from the Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with the National University of Chimborazo in Ecuador. The second shows the contrasting effects of environmental pollution in the Metropolitan District of Quito, research led by Daniel Cornejo-Vásquez, from the University of the Armed Forces and the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador. Both studies show the areas in which pollution affects water and air.

Finally, in veterinary sciences, Teodosio Huanca, from the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation of Peru, shows the effect of embryotrophic factors at different oxygen tensions *in vitro* on the embryonic development of alpacas in the Andean region. Meanwhile, from Food Science, Sixto Reyna and José Arteaga from the Technical University of Manabí, present an extensive study on the risks of contamination of milk and its derivatives.

Without doubt, this material will be useful in the research carried out in the region and its communities in order to have benefit and use of natural products and environmental resources.

Sincerely,

Sheila Serrano Vincenti MsC.  
Universidad Politécnica Salesiana  
Editor in Chief

Ignacio de los Ríos Carmedano PhD.  
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid  
Editor in Chief

Paco Noriega PhD.  
Universidad Politécnica Salesiana  
Guest Editor