Annotated bibliography: Secondary seed dispersal

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Clifford H.T. and G.B. Monteith. 1989. A Three Phase Seed Dispersal Mechanism in Australian Quinine Bush. The three phases are dispersal by Emus, explosive fruits and ants respectively. Natural history information only, no quantitative analysis.


Levey D.J. and M.M. Byrne. 1993. Complex ant-plant interactions: Rain forest ants as secondary dispersers and post-dispersal seed predators. Ecology 74(6): 1802-1812. Interesting study that provides more information than most about the complexities of seed dispersal by ants.

scatterhoarding rodents and harvester ants on reproduction of a grass that is widespread in Western deserts. Few other studies compare effects of different secondary dispersers. Authors are best known for working on rodents. Concludes that rodents determine seedling recruitment patterns, while seeds harvested by ants seldom become seedlings.


Wenny D.G. 1999. Two-stage dispersal of Guarea glabra and G-kunthiana (Meliaceae) in Monteverde, Costa Rica. Journal of Tropical Ecology 15:481-496. Useful for its attempt to examine several steps and possible fates of seeds of these rain-forest trees.