



FIGURE S1. Bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium* spp) in the high canopy of rain forest in Danum Valley. Their large outstretched leaves collect leaf litter and water, and they derive nutrients from the ensuing litter decomposition.



FIGURE S2. Schematic diagram of the distribution of the two species of ferns in relation to canopy architecture. *Asplenium phyllitidis* occurs only within the lower canopy layer and larger individuals are found higher in the canopy. *A. nidus* grows on emergent trees and in areas with more open understories. Larger individuals are found on wider supporting structures. Illustration by Alexandra Boswell.