Acknowledgements

First of all I want to thank Prof. K. Eduard Linsenmair for the freedom to work in my own field of interest in tropical ecology. He gave the frame for this study which was substantially improved by discussions with him. He made it possible for me to work in Africa by providing the facilities in the Comoé-National Park and supporting me in the application for grants.

For the fast and efficient help in the identification of the species I worked with, I want to thank Dr. Lech Borowiec (Chrysomelidae), Dr. John Noyes (parasitoids), and Pierre Poilecot (plants). Yao Paul gave me a first insight in the plants around the Lola-Camp in Ivory Coast. Prof. Kaiser provided the facilities for the C/N-analysis and Prof. Proksch did a GC/MS-analysis with the host plants in Würzburg. Especially I want to thank Alex Widmer who introduced me to the methodology of DNA-analysis and provided the facilities and helped me to set up a molecular phylogeny of the beetle community at the ETH in Zürich. Anja Brunschweiger, Monika Frank, and Burkard Pfeiffer did their FII-practical class within the project and contributed to the results of this study.

Thanks very much to the African employees of the Comoé-Camp, especially Kouadio Koffi Timothée, Kouamé Kouassi David and Yao Paul, who did not only support me in various ways in my work, but who also gave me an insight in the West African culture. Thanks also to the employees of the institute "Tierökologie und Tropenbiologie" in Germany, especially Norbert Schneider and Gerd Vonend, for various small and big favors! I also enjoyed very much the discussions during and outside the "biodiversity"- and the "paper"-literature groups with Sabine Dentl, Wilhelm Druben, Andreas Floren, Martin Heil, Thomas Hovestadt, Stefan Messner, Karsten Mody, and Thomas Schmidt who kept science "alive" for me during times of desk work. I want thank all members of the department in Würzburg for the friendly atmosphere, the readiness to help and the highly sophisticated conversations at coffee break...

I also want to thank my former teachers in Biology, who opened my eyes and encouraged me in the study of insects and plants, especially Dr. Werner Arens, Prof. Thomas Bauer, Dr habil. Hermann Heilmeier, Prof. Tony Joern, Prof. Svata Louda and Prof. Helmut Zwölfer.

Some friends supported me during the time of the dissertation especially with their friendship and participation, in Africa as well as in Germany, and I am very thankful to them. These were Edi Beer, Reiner Cebulla, Sabine Dentl, Gerald Kerth, Judith Korb, Martin Pfeiffer, Elfi

Reiser, M.-O. Rödel, Maria Scalia, Thomas Schmidt, and Laura Scott. Especial support I always found by my friend Erhard Strohm with whom I could share the fascination about nature and who never got tired of scientific discussions, even if they turned around such "odd subjects" like herbivorous insects. His comments improved the manuscript substantially.

Last but not least I want to thank my family, especially my parents, for their support and concern in my work.

The field work in Ivory Coast was supported by a grant of the DAAD, lab experiments and the writing in Würzburg were supported by a grant of the Graduiertenkolleg "Arthropodenverhalten" (DFG). The field camp in the Ivory Coast was built with funds of the Volkswagenstiftung (AZ I / 64 102). Permission for scientific research in the Ivory Coast was granted by the Ministère d'Eaux et Fôrets, the Ministère de l'Agriculture des Ressources Animales and the Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique, République de Côte d'Ivoire. These supports are gratefully acknowledged.