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EVALUATION OF THE DUNG BEETLE'S (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: SCARABAEINAE) COMMUNITY OF A SEMI-DECIDUOUS FOREST IN CERRADO

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Alto Paranaíba's region, in Minas Gerais State, is marked by the domain Cerrado, however, due to the growth of agriculture, it became a mosaic landscape, but with the characteristics of the transitional area between Cerrado and Atlantic Forest. Our work aims to evaluate the dung beetle community's structure of the Parque Estadual dos Campos Altos (PECA), which presents seasonal semi-deciduous forest and Cerrado areas in its buffer zone. As hypothesis, we expect that the abundance and richness will be higher in the forest habitat when compared to the Cerrado due to the impact of coffee plantantions around Cerrado areas. The dung beetle community composition will be different between the two habitats. For that, in both habitats, pitfall traps were distributed in three transects, with 10 traps each. Each pitfall had around 20g of human faeces as bait. The traps were in the field for 24 hours. We collected 1844 individuals: 1562 in PECA and 282 in Cerrado, distributed in fourteen genera and 42 species. We found 27 species in PECA and 21 in Cerrado. In PECA there was dominance of *Canthon coloratus* (86,04%), which is associated with monkey "muriqui" (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*) faeces. Furthermore, we collected individuals of *Dichotomius malyi*, a rare species which, until now, had lack of information about its distribution. In contrast, in Cerrado the species *Canthidium* sp4 and *Canthon histrio* were dominant with 50% of all individuals collected. The abundance and the richness are significantly higher in PECA (χ^2 6.106 $p < 0.05$; $\chi^2$4.292 $p < 0.05$, respectively). Regarding to species composition, there is divergence of almost 100% between habitats. Therefore, it is important to conserve PECA, since the dung beetle's community is unique in a landscape surrounded by Cerrado and farming.

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