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MEDIUM AND LARGE SIZED MAMMALS OF A MOSAIC WITH EUCALYPTUS MATRICE IN MID-WESTERN SÃO PAULO STATE

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Community Ecology/Poster

In southern Brazil, heterogeneous vegetation matrices of agricultural cropland and remnant native form a large part of the landscape, making it necessary to understand the importance of each habitat type in order to maintain biodiversity in this landscapes. The current study studied the composition of the medium and large-sized mammal assemblage in remnant habitat patches, eucalyptus plantations and ecotones between those two environments, with the goal of answering the following question: is the species richness greater within eucalyptus plantations, remnant habitat patches or ecotone environments between them? We carried out this three habitat study at two farms located in mid-western Sao Paulo State. The faunal survey was carried out using a linear transect of 28 km, sampled monthly for 12 months. The composition of the three environments was analyzed estimating a constancy of occurrence and a richness of species. Richness estimators for each environment were chosen based on the completeness and the equitability of the samples. In total, 21 species of medium and large-sized mammals were recorded, 5 of which are classified as threatened. Although the species accumulation curve indicates the beginning of sample adequacy only for ecotone, species richness estimates were higher in eucalyptus $(30.23 \pm 0 - \text{Jack2})$ than in ecotone $(20.67 \pm 2.47 - \text{Jack1})$ and remnant habitat patches $(19.23 \pm 0 - \text{Jack2})$. Thus, the greater coverage of the ground by eucalyptus in the studied mosaic (71.56%) was an important predictor of the richness observed in this environment in comparison to the other environments. Furthermore, studies of show eucalyptus to be one of the most species-rich habitats in modified landscapes matrices. Therefore, future studies with greater sampling effort, combined with other survey techniques, are necessary to study the existence of a difference in the composition of the community of medium and large-sized mammals in different habitat types.

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