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FLUCTUATION OF *TABANIDAE* (DIPTERA) IN THE PALMAS GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE REFUGE, PARANÁ

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The Conservation Unit (UC) Palmas Grasslands Wildlife Refuge (RVS-CP) was created in 2008 and is part of the Mata Atlântica Biome, but due to the influence of high altitude in which is situated, it shows characteristics of Highland Fields. These phyto-physiognomic environments present a high degree of endemism. The Tabanidae Family is composed of Brachycera dipterans, popularly known as Mutucas. The present study intends to conduct a local investigation on the entomofauna of Tabanidae (Diptera) in RVS-CP, performing a survey of the occurrence of *Tabanidae* in the locality and identifying the main genera. For this, eight Malaise traps were used, distributed in A-Inner forest, B-Forest edge, C-Open field, and D-Ecological succession (withdrawal of Pinus taeda), during the years of 2012 to 2015, inside the UC. We collected a total of 626 specimens belonging to nine genera and 26 morphotypes. Seasonality observed during the collection period was accentuated for all areas, with marked peaks in the warmest periods of the year (between October and March) and complete absence during the cold period (April to September). This fact is according to literature data about the group. The most abundant collection for a single trap occurred in January, with the capture of 43 individuals. The most abundant genus was Dichelacera, with 283 individuals (45.2%), followed by genus Poeciloderas (158 individuals, 25.2%). Regarding the environments of the collection, the environment that presented the greatest abundance (52.7% of the total of tabanids) was forest edge (B), which can be explained by the diversification of resources offered by this environment. The second most abundant environment was inner forest (A), where 25.2% of the tabanids were collected. It concludes by pointing out the need for more taxonomic studies for the group and corroborating the absence of the group in the cold period of the year.

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