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BIOMASS VARIATION OF INVASIVE GRASSES IN CERRADO

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Biological invasions are common and considered the second major cause of biodiversity loss. The aim of this work was to assess the biomass production to the number of rainy days and temperature of three invasive African grasses, *Urochloa decubens* Stapf, *Melinis minutiflora* P. Beauv. and *Pennisetum purpureum* Schumach. They have been commonly found in riparian vegetation. The hypothesis of this work is that biomass production is not related either to rainy days or temperature, since the species studied are well adapted to the environment that they are invading. From April 2016 to March 2017, the biomass was collected monthly in five 0,5 X 0,5 m plots from X disconnected areas.. Data was analysed by Spearman's AIC tests, using R environment. Biomass production was not related to rainy days for any of the species. Temperature was inversely related for *Melinis minutiflora* e *Pennisetum purpureum*, but no correlation between temperature and *Urochoa decubens* was found. In AIC test, null model explained 100% of all obtained results, indicating something rather than number of rainy days and temperature is influencing in biomass production. The conclusion of this work is that the presence of these invasive species can increase the invasion of riparian forests. *Melinis minutiflora* and *Pennisetum purpureum* can increase fire risks especially during the winter, when temperatures are low (and biomass production increase) and the rain to put out the fire are scarce. The presence of these grasses is an incident threat to riparian areas.

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