DIVERSITY OF ANTS (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) IN THREE DIFFERENT BAITS IN CAXIUANÃ NATIONAL FOREST NEAR OF FERREIRA PENNA SCIENTIFIC STATION (ECFPN), PARÁ, BRAZIL

Julie Andrews de França e Silva[1,*]

[1] *Institute of Agriculture Science, Federal Rural University of Amazon, Pará, Brazil*

Abstract: The ants have an important role in the ecosystems as bioindicators and have a strong correlation with the environmental variables and vegetation. The objective of this study was to compare the species richness of ants using three different types of the bait traps (fruit, raw meat and insect) in a forest area. And thus, to observe if the majority species richness of ant is attracted to carbohydrate (fruit) baited traps than to protein (ox meat or insect) baited traps based on the restriction of resource during drought season. The bait traps were installed in trials near of Ferreira Penna Scientific Station (ECFPn) in Caxiuanã National forest, Melgaço, Pará state, Brazil. During four days were collected all ants that were feeding on fruit, meat and dead insect. In the laboratory, the individuals were sorted in morphospecies and counted. For statistical analysis was applied ANOVA One-Way to compare the species richness between the different types of baits. In 72 bait traps more than 787 specimens were collected distributed across 12 morphospecies, with the dominance of two morphospecies (B and F) in all bait traps. In total, ten morphospecies were collected on fruit bait, eight from traps baited with meat and seven from traps baited with insects. Even the fruit trap presenting the largest number of species richness, no statistic difference between different baits was found. So, would be necessary more samples and comparation between the different seasons (dry and wet) for to obtain data more reliable.

Keywords: *Amazonian rainforest; Ants; Bait traps; Morphospecies.*