

analyze the fish diet and compare it in two streams. Two locations were sampled by electro-fishing. Stomachs and intestines were dissected, identifying food items and relative abundance was recorded. A Mann-Whitney analysis was performed in order to compare the diet of the pencil catfish between streams. The diet was composed mostly of macroinvertebrates, along with fine and thick organic matter. The food consumed by the catfish included 5 matching items for both sites and 6 ones exclusive for each place. Staphylinidae, which were found exclusively in the Siambón stream, represented 43% of the total of elements included in the diet, Baetodes 33.2% and Chironomidae 12.1%. In Las Conchas stream the relative abundance of Baetidae represented 59.2% (Baetodes + undetermined specimens), and Chironomidae 12.2%. Significant differences were detected in the mean value of the relative abundance of Baetodes and Staphylinidae between sites. Ongoing studies on the composition of benthonic macroinvertebrates will help to understand if these differences respond to environmental offers or to feeding preferences of the pencil catfish.

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DOES THE BODY SIZE OF TACHINIDAE PARASITOID FLIES (DIPTERA) CHANGE IN THE DRY CHACO LANDSCAPE OF TUCUMÁN?

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The configuration and composition of the natural or anthropic landscape are related to biodiversity patterns and ecosystem services such as the control of herbivores. Changes in the landscape determine changes in biotic communities, including the diversity and composition of animal body sizes. In this study, our objective was to examine the differences in body sizes of tachinid parasitoid flies between agricultural, natural, and mixed plots of 1ha in an area of Trancas, Tucumán. In addition, we explored the wing / thorax ratio of flies among plot types. We measured flies of all species collected using Malaise traps in the study area (n=90). We characterized the landscape from satellite images and analyzed the data using ANOVA. On average thorax width measured 2.35mm (SD=0.87) and wing length measured 5.67mm (SD=2.06). Both thorax and wing were less variable in natural plots than in mixed plots and in agricultural plots (thorax: F=2.864, df=2, p=0.06, wing: F=2.388, df=2, p=0.09). The wing / thorax ratio did not vary among the plots, suggesting that functionally the fly communities do not change (F=0.6231, df=2, p=0.5387). At present we are measuring more individuals, examining both the diversity and composition of fly sizes in the plots, and taking detailed metrics of the landscape to relate them to fly sizes. Studying body sizes at the community level will allow us to determine the value of this variable to describe the structure of herbivore controlling communities in regions of the world where there are still undescribed species.

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SEASONAL ABUNDANCE OF THE PHLEBOTOMINAE SPECIES IN THE SOUTH OF TUCUMÁN PROVINCE

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Phlebotomines (Diptera: Psychodidae) have a wide range of distribution and health importance due to their vectorial capacity. The abundance and species richness of the subfamily were studied in Autumn (A), Winter (W), Spring (Sp), and Summer (Su) in the Escaba Dam – Río Marapa. Sampling was carried out from April 2014 to May 2016 in three localities of the Alberdi Department (Escaba, Batiruaana and Corralito). In these places, two sites were selected, and REDILA-BL light traps were placed for three consecutive nights. The abundance variation of phlebotomines in the four seasons within each locality was analyzed with the ANOSIM test. A SIMPER analysis was used to determine which species contributed the most in each season. Significant differences between seasons were found. The most different seasons were (A) - (Su) and the most similar were (W) - (A). The species abundance was distributed unevenly. In (W), *Migonemyia migonei* and *Pintomyia salomoni* were the most abundant species in the Escaba locality. The dominant species in (A) were *Mi. migonei* and *Nyssomyia neivai* both for Corralito. In (Sp), *Mi. migonei* was the most frequent species in the three localities, and *Ny. neivai* only for Corralito. In (Su), *Ny. neivai* and *Mi. migonei* were the main species in Corralito. Anthropogenic, environmental and climatic variables may influence the abundance and dispersion of phlebotomines, increasing the probability of effective contact between man and the vector. Therefore, it is important to study the dynamics of these insects to determine control measures and epidemiological surveillance.