

DIVERSITY AND ABUNDANCE OF SPIDERS IN A TROPICAL FOREST: A BRIEF STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF THE EDGE EFFECT IN THE COMMUNITY.

Alexandre Sampaio de Siqueira

Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ecologia, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal do Pará, Rua Augusto Corrêa, nº 01 - Bairro Guamá. CEP 66075-110 - Belém, Pará, Brasil
alsiqueira21@gmail.com

Abstract:

The edge effect is able to model changes in the environment, which seasonally affect the local fauna. Thinking about this, a study was proposed to buy the wealth and abundance of spiders in two distinct habitats of a rainforest: primary forest and edge. Therefore, the hypothesis was that edge effect has a negative effect on the diversity and abundance of spiders in the Amazon forest, so it is expected that the diversity and abundance of spiders will be lower in the edge than in the primary forest. Plots of 4x4m within each study site were marked for spider collecting, 3 in the primary forest and 4 in the edge. In order to test the hypothesis, the following analyzes were performed: T-test with separate variances, to compare differences between the diversity and abundance of spiders; Analysis of principal coordinates, in order to analyze differences in community composition; Permutational multivariate analysis of variance; in order to test the significance and test of homogeneity of dispersion, to show the variation within each sample group. After the analysis, it was seen that the hypothesis of the study was relegated, which implies a positive effect that the edge effect had on the richness and abundance of the spiders. As well as, there was a separation of the spiders between the two types of environments. Therefore, it was possible to understand and discuss the distribution pattern of spiders in a tropical forest. However, more study should be done, at different scales.

Key words: *Edge effect, rain forest, spiders*