

**INFLUENCES OF FOOD RESOURCES IN THE PARAMETERS OF THE
COMMUNITY OF ANTS IN AN AREA OF PRIMARY FOREST IN THE NATIONAL
FOREST OF CAXIUNÃ**

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Abstract: The forest of Caxiuanã has great ecological and taxonomic variability of soil living ants. Their distribution is affected by the variation in food availability within and between habitats. In this study, our objective was to evaluate if there are differences in the abundance, richness and composition of ants species within an area of annually dry forest and one of floodplain, comparing the attractiveness of salt and sugar. The methodology consisted of making linear transects on the ground of each area, using eppendorf tubes as a fall traps for collecting ants. A total of 870 individuals, belonging to 30 ant species / morphospecies were collected, in 13 genera and 4 subfamilies. No significant differences were found in the abundance and species richness between the two sites, but rather among the baits, suggesting resource similarity between the forest and floodplain. In general, there were preferences for sugar. However, the composition of species varied between sites and baits, confirming the importance of these variables as structuring parameters of ant assemblies. The first record of the genus *Megalomyrmex* sp. for Caxiunã was made, making a contribution in the taxonomy and distribution of the ants.

Key words: *Ants; Baits; Caxiunã; Resource-food.*