

**EDGE VS INTERIOR: DO TRAITS IN HERBACEOUS PLANTS AND SEEDLINGS  
DIFFER BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTS IN AN AREA AT CAXIUANA  
NATIONAL FOREST?**

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**Abstract:** Tropical rainforests make up 6 percent of the world's surface area. The Amazon alone is estimated to inhabit an astonishing 3/4 of earth's existing plant-species, all unique to this region. The objective of this work was to investigate the effects of forest-fragmentation (forest-edge) on the ground floor in primary rainforest, focusing on Caxiuana, Amazonia. The experiment was conducted at Caxiunã National Forest, surrounding the Ferreira Penna Station, in Melgaço - Pará state – Brazil, during 5 five days in early September 2018. We looked at the abundance of plants on the forest floor, total surface leaf-area, relative light, soil humidity and litter-depth on forest floor at two different sites: 20 meters vertical distance from the forest edge and about 800 meters vertical distance the forest edge. We used the R program (version 3.4.2) for the t test and ImageJ to calculate the leaf area and opening of the canopy.

Although there were differences in the environmental variables, it was not possible to verify differences in the attributes measured in the plots. All functional groups were considered together. The result may have been masked because each group can present its own result. Installing the plots from the interior to a more distant location (more than 200m) could result in a statistical difference.

**Key words:** *Distance; Light disponibility; Plots; Rainforest.*