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Evaluation of Different Sampling Methods Used in Inventories of Small Mammals in Brazilian Amazonia

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" The small mammals are important elements in tropical ecosystems. However we do not know yet how to maximize the sampling of this group. Currently, the Amazon rainforest is under severe threat from human activities, so it is urgent to use appropriate methods of sampling in order to increase knowledge of biodiversity and so set goals to properly conservation. Thus, the main objective of this study is to assess what the current representation of assemblies of small mammals sampled in the Amazon region as a function of sampled effort and sampled method employed. To do this I have to evaluate the relationship between type of trap (Sherman, Tomahawk and Pitfall), sampling effort (number of nights sampled x number of traps per night) and substrate sampled (ground or understory) with number of species and number of individuals of rodents and marsupials from different locations and to assess the sampling efficiency of the inventories (percentage of species obtained in according to number of species expected for each location sampled) in the Brazilian Amazon. I will use 61 small mammal inventories conducted throughout the Amazon basin. As different location in the Amazon basin may have different physical characteristics I will use the Walsh index (index that incorporates duration and amount of rainfall - data available) as a co factor in the analysis, in order to minimize the possible effect of the environment on data trapping. In the future, after evaluating what effect the methods and the sampling effort in number of species and individuals of rodents and marsupials obtained in each locality, I plan to examine whether there (and what is) the effect of different environmental characteristics on small communities mammals in the Brazilian Amazon."