

**Soil termites in a rainforest, a secondary forest and mixed-culture plantation sites in central Amazonia**

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Soil termites have been studied in detail in a rain forest (FLO), a secondary forest (SEC) and two agroforestry plantation sites (POA, POC) at the Embrapa Amazônia Ocidental in central Amazônia, using soil (0-5 cm) and litter samples taken at random within the study sites, using a soil sampler of 21 cm diameter. Twenty (FLO, SEC) or ten (POA, POC) samples were taken at each three-monthly sampling event between July 1997 and March 1999. The soil fauna was extracted from the samples, according to soil biology standard procedures, in a gradient of heat and moisture (Berlese apparatus). The study was part of the activities of the project on "Soil Fauna and Litter Decomposition" (SHIFT ENV 52). Termites taken from these samples were identified to genus; individual numbers and biomass were determined. (For biomass determination, the collected termites were classified into size classes and the average weight of each size class, determined using animals freshly collected from the field, was used to calculate total biomass.) In this poster contribution, we give a list of termite genus diversity, then compare termite biomass and individual numbers in litter and soil at the different sites, and discuss possible factors that determine termite distribution in the field.