

ANAIS DO X ENCONTRO SOBRE ABELHAS  
RIBEIRÃO PRETO



**FUNPEC-Editora**

**Dados Internacionais de Catalogação na Publicação (CIP)**  
**(Câmara Brasileira do Livro, SP, Brasil)**

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Encontro sobre Abelhas (10. : 2012 : Ribeirão Preto, SP)  
Anais do X Encontro sobre Abelhas. -- Ribeirão Preto, SP :  
FUNPEC Editora, 2012.  
Vários organizadores.

1. Abelhas - Congressos.

12-08896

CDD-595.79906

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**Índices para catálogo sistemático:**

1. Congressos : Abelhas : Zoologia 595.79906

Anais do X Encontro sobre Abelhas. Ribeirão Preto. 2012  
Simões, Z.L.P.; Bitondi, M.M.G.; Bomtorin, A.D.; Nascimento, F.S.

Número de páginas.  
533



**FUNPEC-Editora**

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# AGONISTIC INTERACTIONS AND DAMAGES IN FLOWERS OF BRAZILIAN NUT (*Bertholletia excelsa* HUMB., LECYTHYDACEAE) CAUSED BY *Trigona* sp

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Brazilian nut is an allogamous melittophilous plant. The proportion of flowers that are converted fruits is very low and much of this loss is probably due to the lack and/or quality of pollination. During observation of floral visitors of Brazilian nut, *Trigona* sp. maintained agonistic interactions with other visitors and an elaborate process to access nectar chambers from flowers by means of drilling in bloom. It was investigated whether the level of damage is repeated in different trees near the observation points, as well as if the drilling is damaging reproductive structures. For this it was carried out a description of the behavior of foragers in the flowers of one tree. To investigate the prevalence of the damage by *Trigona* sp on other trees, there were selected nine other trees distributed around the observation tower (in a cacao crop and a pasture), collected 100 flowers fallen to the ground for each tree and examined the flowers. Aggressive interactions were observed with *Trigona* sp. attacking the effective pollinators or any other visitor who approached the flowers. The flowers perforated by *Trigona* sp were no longer attractive or reduced the time and frequency of visits of likely pollinators. There were observed no damage to the reproductive structures on flowers drilled by *Trigona* sp. From the 1000 flowers examined only 144 (14.4%) were drilled, with 97 flowers belonging to the tree where behavioral observations were taken. Studies that evaluate to what extent the damage caused by *Trigona* sp. flowers Brazilian nut interfere with pollination should be performed as well as the influence of different sites (cocoa cultivation and pasture) in foraging behavior.

**Apoio:** Rede sobre Polinização da Castanheira 556406/2009-5 CNPq & Projeto Polinizadores GEF/UNEP/FAO/Funbio. PIBIC/CNPq

**Área:** Biologia da polinização

**Palavra chave:** Pollination - bee – *Trigona* - Transamazonica - floral biology