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ORCHID BEE FAUNA (APIDADE, EUGLOSSINA) IN DIFFERENT LAND USE SYSTEMS IN BELTERRA, PARÁ

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The expansion of agriculture frontier in the Amazon has been questioned for its negative impacts on biodiversity, as a consequence of forest destruction. Biodiversity loss in disturbed areas can be measured by monitoring biological groups, such as bees of the subtribe Euglossina (orchid bees). The aim of this study was to estimate the richness and abundance of euglossine bees in 13 transects of 300m distributed in five watersheds in the municipality of Belterra (PA), with different land use forms (primary forest, “capoeira”, pasture, horticulture, silviculture, grains and subsistence agriculture). 10 scent bait traps (five with methyl salicylate and five with eugenol) were placed per transect, suspended at 1.5 m above the ground for 48 hours from 04/05/2010 to 03/06/2010. A total of 1,088 bees were collected belonging to 27 species of the genera: *Eulaema*, *Euglossa*, *Exaerete*, *Eufriesea*, *Trigona* and *Megalopta*. The species *Eulaema meriana* Oliver, 1789 showed the highest abundance (205, 19% of total captures) and *Eulaema cingulata* Fabricius 1804 was found in all systems with 66 bees representing 6% of total bees. The forest environment showed a higher abundance of bees (540/50%), also recording the highest species richness (25/93%), while the horticulture presented the lowest abundance (19/2%) and richness (11/39%). In the “capoeira”, the richness was 23 species (85%), with an abundance of 239 specimens (22%). On the other hand, areas of subsistence agriculture and silviculture had the lowest number of species (12/10%; 44/37%, respectively). The results supported the hypothesis that land use change in Central Amazonia promotes biodiversity loss.

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