FLORISTIC COMPOSITION OF REMAINING FORESTS AND OLD SECONDARY VEGETATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF NORTHEASTERN PARÁ, BRAZIL

COMPOSIÇÃO FLORÍSTICA DE FLORESTAS REMANESCENTES E VEGETAÇÃO SECUNDÁRIA MAIS ANTIGAS (CAPOEIRAS) NA PAISAGEM AGRÍCOLA DO NORDESTE PARAENSE, BRASIL

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In the northeast of the State of Pará, the majority of the tropical humid forests have been transformed in agricultural land, being the landscape mainly dominated by small land holders practicing the traditional agriculture (slash and burn). Nowadays, the natural vegetation in the region is characterized by young secondary vegetation ("capoeiras"), very few patches of "mature" secondary forest, and by narrow strips of remaining forests restricted to the riversides and small creeks ("igarapés"). Thus, the predominant vegetation is highly influenced by agricultural activities being practiced in the region, including the primary remaining forests, which, in general, have undergone selective logging. The central question focused in this study is to understand how much the species composition and the structures change with changing ground-water level from the very wet (seasonly flooded "várzea" or "igapó" forests) to the dry sites (secondary forests of "terra firme"). The species composition was surveyed after stratification of the stands in order to include the whole range of seedlings up to adult trees. As a preliminary results, it was observed that there are differences in species composition according to ground-water level. Of all species (nearly 150 spp.) eight are found only in "igapó", eleven species were recorded only in the intermediate type of environment, and another set of eleven species were observed only in the "terra firme" type of forest. However, *Abarema jupunba, Bauhinia guianensis, Cecropia palmata, Clusia grandiflora, Davilla kunthii, Tapirira guianensis* were commom to all types of environments surveyed. The intermediate and the very wet conditions share a similar set of species and show a greater diversity compared to the "terra firme" vegetation. The flooded "igapós" areas differ from place to place, but there is an abundance of *Euterpe oleracea* and *Symphonia globulifera*. Old secondary forests in "terra firme" are very different concerning the height of trees, species distribution, and composition in places relatively close to each other. Considering all the species registered up to the present, the seven plant families most represented are: Mimosaceae (11 spp), Rubiaceae (10 spp), Fabaceae (10 spp), Annonaceae (9 spp), Caesalpiniaceae (8 spp), Bignoniaceae (8 spp) and Lecythidaceae (7 spp).

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