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ORCHID-BEE FAUNA (HYMENOPTERA: APIDAE: EUGLOSSINA) IN TWO FOREST FRAGMENTS IN THE STATE OF PARÁ, BRAZIL

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The conservation of biodiversity in intensively cultivated areas depends directly on the conservation of forest fragments. The southern region of the Amazonian domain that extends from Acre to Maranhão States is most affected by deforestation and known as the “Arc of Deforestation”. In this area the vegetation is highly fragmented. Due to this fact, losses of local biodiversity leading to lower number of species of great ecological importance, such as pollinators, are expected. The males of euglossine bees are known for their strong attraction to orchids and also act as important pollinators of these flowers and various other plant species. The aim of this study was to analyze the species richness of euglossine bees in two forest fragments located in the State of Pará and inserted into the “Arc of Deforestation”, one in the municipalities of Paragominas and Nova Ipixuna. Bees were collected with scent bait traps made with PET bottles left for 48h in the forest with three aromatic baits: eugenol, eucalyptol and methyl salicylate. In Nova Ipixuna, species richness was higher ($S = 31$ spp.) with dominance of 20 species (94,49 %) and 13 exclusive species. In Paragominas, species richness was lower ($S = 21$ spp.) with dominance of 16 species (97,16 %) and only three exclusive species. A total of 18 species were common to both areas. The observed faunal differences probably are due to the fact that Nova Ipixuna’s fragment is located in an best-preserved area isolated from the urban center, while Paragominas’s fragment is located in an impoverished forest fragment, very close to the urban center. However, despite the low sampling effort we found species richness similar to those found in previous studies conducted with Euglossina in the Amazon region and with greater sampling effort.

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