



ECOLOGY OF *DORYSTHETUS FULGIDUS* (WATERHOUSE) (SCARABAEIDAE: RUTELINAE) IN AN AMAZON FOREST.

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Rutelina (Coleoptera; Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae) constitute a group of beetles well known for the bright and conspicuous colors of several of their species. Most of their species occur in South and Central America. Research on this group focus mainly on the description of species, and little is know about their biology and ecology. It appears that larvae of several genera of Rutelina are found in rotten wood, while adults feed on flowers and on decomposing fruits. There are 24 known species in *Dorysthetus*. *Dorysthetus fulgidus* is found in Brazil, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador, where it is quite common. This present research seems to be the first report in the literature where ecology aspects of *D. fulgidus* are described. Flight intercept traps baited with ethanol at heights of 1.0, 3.0, 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 m above ground level were set in a primary rainforest of the Reserva Florestal Adolfo Ducke in Manaus, state of Amazonas, Brazil. Trapping frequency was weekly, from March until October 1993, encompassing parts of both rainy and dry seasons. A total of 215 specimens were trapped, all of them females. The seasonal variation observed suggests that beetle abundance is correlated with rainfall, since most specimens were trapped at the end of the rainy season (March and April), with a substantial drop in abundance in the following (drier) months. The higher the height of trap above ground, the higher the number of trapped beetles, where those at 10.0 m caught statistically the largest number of specimens. Individuals responded to ethanol most likely due to the fact that this alcohol is commonly produced in decomposing fruits, which seem to be a food source to these beetles. The reason for the fact that only females were trapped might be because these could be the pioneer gender in food location, while males respond only to pheromones produced by their conspecific females after a food source is located.