

Scolytinae (Curculionidae) and Bostrichidae in the Caatinga Biome in Northeastern Brazil.

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Scolytinae beetles (Curculionidae) are very important species in the forest environment, where several species are pests. Additionally, they might be used as bioindicators of environmental stress and disturbance. Most Bostrichidae species though usually attack dry plant tissue. In Brazil, most studies on these beetles were conducted in implanted forests of exotic *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus* species. Studies in natural environments are less frequent, and concentrated in the Atlantic, Araucaria and Amazon forest biomes. The caatinga environment corresponds to the third largest biome of the country, but studies on Scolytinae are there virtually non-existent. The objectives of this experiment are to survey the fauna and study the population dynamics of Scolytinae and Bostrichidae beetles in a caatinga forest in northeastern Brazil. The experiment is being conducted in a well preserved 90-ha caatinga fragment located at Fazenda Alto da Cruz, coordinates of 9°06'41.30"S 44°22'32.75"W, in Bom Jesus, state of Piauí, Brazil. Beetles are being trapped in flight intercept traps baited with 95% ethanol. Preliminary results correspond to 45 weeks of trapping (February-December 2011). Eight Scolytinae species were trapped, in *Cryptocarenum* (2 species), *Hypothenemus* (1 sp.), *Xyleborus* (3 spp.), *Xyleborinus* (1 sp.) and *Xylosandrus* (1 sp.), plus one Platypodinae (*Euplatypus*). In Bostrichidae, we trapped 8 species, with one species each in *Bostrichopsis*, *Dolychobostrychus*, *Xylopsocus*, *Xyloprista*, *Xyloperthella* and *Xylionulus*, and two in *Micrapate*. Bostrichidae were by far the most abundant taxon, with ca. 87% trapped specimens, while Scolytinae corresponded to only 13% of specimens. The majority of the species trapped are the first record in the literature for the caatinga biome. The Scolytinae diversity was poor compared to other biomes, perhaps due to the little rainfall in the area, favoring a higher abundance of Bostrichidae species, more adapted to colonize dry plant tissue.

Keywords: ambrosia beetles, ethanol, species diversity