

## Beetle borers (Coleoptera) in an anthropized caatinga fragment in Paraíba, northeastern Brazil

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Beetle borers of the sub-families Scolytinae and Platypodinae (Curculionidae) are an important group in the forest environment due to their role in nutrient cycling. Several species in this group are though pests of economic importance. Despite its importance, there are very few published information on these beetles for the caatinga biome. Our objective was to contribute to improve the current knowledge of this group. We surveyed for these beetles in a ca 1-ha anthropized caatinga fragment (7°03'37.13"S 37°16'27.18"W) located on Federal University of Campina Grande campus, in Patos, state of Paraíba, Brazil. Trapping frequency with ethanol-baited flight intercept traps was weekly, from November 2010 until November 2012. We trapped a total of a little over 1,200 Scolytinae, Platypodinae and Bostrichidae beetles specimens, within 22 species. Scolytinae was the most abundant (84% specimens) and most specious (15 species) group, followed by Bostrichidae (16% specimens, 6 species), while only one Platypodinae species (5 specimens) was trapped. *Hypothenemus* (Scolytinae) was by far the most specious and abundant genus, with 8 species and 80% of all specimens. Species in this genus are known to have an ability of developing in plant material far drier than most of the scolytines and platypodines. Due to this fact, *Hypothenemus* is considered to be a good indicator group of degraded areas, where a high proportion of border to interior area and open spaces create drier environments, ideal for the development of these beetles. Our results support this concept, for the surveyed area was highly anthropized, and *Hypothenemus* beetles predominated.

**Keywords:** Scolytinae, bioindicator, *Hypothenemus*.