PADRÕES ESPACIAIS NA DISTRIBUIÇÃO DE ABELHAS EUGLOSSINA (HYMENOPTERA, APIDAE) DA REGIÃO NEOtROPICAL

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ABSTRACT

Spatial distribution patterns of Euglossina bees (Hymenoptera, Apidae) in the Neotropical region. Orchid bees (Apini, Euglossina) have a mainly Neotropical distribution, comprising, approximately, 200 species and five genera. Several local fauna surveys are available in the literature, but comparative studies on the Euglossina composition and distribution patterns are still scarce. The aim of this study is to analyze published data from 29 assemblages in order to understand the spatial distribution patterns of the sampled areas along the Neotropics. Ordination procedures (DCA and NMDS) were employed in order to describe the groupings of assemblages according to orchid bees occurrences. The Central America and Amazonian forests localities formed cohesive groups in both analyses, while Atlantic Forest localities were more dispersed. Areas on the eastern border of the Amazon shared characteristic of transitional areas between this sub-region and the Atlantic Forest. Moreover, analysis of variance among the first DCA axis and variables showed significant influence of latitudinal, longitudinal and rainfall gradients, as biogeographical sub-regions on Euglossina's assemblages groupings. The general pattern is congruent with previously proposed biogeographical scenarios for the Neotropical region. The DCA results also help to identify, independently, the faunal elements inherent to the different studied forested formations.

KEYWORDS: Community ecology; Multivariate analysis; Central and South America; Orchid bees.

INTRODUÇÃO

As abelhas da subtribo Euglossina (Hymenoptera: Apidae), conhecidas também como abelhas das orquídeas, são importantes polinizadores neotropicais, podendo voar distâncias relativamente longas em florestas continuas (Janzen, 1971; Dudley, 1995; Wikelski et al., 2010). Os machos coletam substâncias aromáticas em flores de diferentes famílias vegetais (principalmente Orchidaceae) ou mesmo em fontes