Biodiversity in tropical plantations is influenced by surrounding native vegetation

2 but not yield: a case study with dung beetles in Amazonia

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Human-modified forests, including plantations and managed forest, will be a major

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11 ABSTRACT

component of tropical landscapes in the near future. To conserve biodiversity across modified tropical landscapes we must first understand what influences diversity in planted areas. We studied dung beetle communities in *Eucalyptus* plantations to assess the influence of local (canopy openness and soil texture) and landscape factors (surrounding native forest cover) on taxonomic and functional diversity, and to determine whether biodiversity in plantations is affected by timber production. Dung beetle community composition in Eucalyptus plantations was largely explained by the surrounding native forest cover, as Simpson's diversity and functional diversity (Rao's quadratic entropy) increased with the extent of native forest in buffer areas. However, the abundance of dung beetle species associated with undisturbed forest was not explained by any of the explanatory variables. The coarse sand content of the soil explained much of the functional similarity between plantations and native forests, as well as variation in dung beetle community structure. The total abundance of dung beetles in plantations increased with coarse sand content, whereas body mass declined, and dung beetle abundance and functional originality decreased with canopy openness. Timber production intensity did not explain the variation in any of the measured diversity parameters. If enhancing biodiversity in plantations is a management goal, then these results highlight the importance of restoring or retaining native forest areas in modified landscapes. They also suggest that integrated management could improve biodiversity in Eucalyptus plantations without reducing timber production.

33 **Keywords:** Scarabaeinae, silviculture, land-sharing, land-sparing, forestry

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INTRODUCTION

Planted forests are rapidly expanding at a rate of around 5 million ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹, with much of that increase occurring in tropical landscapes as a result of the growing global demand for timber, cellulose and oils (FAO 2010, Vijay et al. 2016). In Brazil, *Eucalyptus* spp. plantations have rapidly become important sources of pulp, lumber, charcoal, plywood and firewood. By 2016, Eucalyptus plantations covered an area of *c*. 7.5 million ha, which is *c*. 100,000 ha more than the previous year (IBGE 2017). The expansion of these silvicultural systems over native habitat contribute to the worldwide loss of biodiversity and can jeopardise many ecosystem functions and services (Green 2005, Newbold et al. 2014, Barlow et al. 2018). To minimise biodiversity losses, it is important to assess how to maximise the biodiversity and functional value of the human-modified landscapes that are increasingly prevalent in the tropics, and are likely to cover most of the world in the near future (Ellis and Ramankutty 2008, DeClerck et al. 2010, Barlow et al. 2018).

There is a growing interest in the value of forested production systems for maintaining biodiversity (Barlow et al. 2007) and management alternatives targeting this goal have become more common in the last decade. A growing number of studies have shown how some taxa can persist in tropical crops that emulate structural aspects of native forests and landscapes, including cocoa agroforestry (Schroth and Harvey 2007, Cassano et al. 2012), oil palm (Koh and Wilcove 2008, Gray et al. 2014, Dislich et al. 2016), coffee plantations (Tadesse et al. 2014), and timber monocultures including *Eucalyptus* (Bremer and Farley 2010). Such studies suggest that both local conditions, such as structural complexity or canopy cover, and landscape context, such as proximity to remnants of native forests, can enhance the biodiversity in plantations. However, although native species from forest remnants can improve ecosystem functioning within modified areas (Blitzer et al. 2012), ecosystem processes can also change as a result of the distinct functional structure of the biological community in the modified habitats (Hobbs et al. 2009, Tavares et al. 2019).

Despite advances in biodiversity conservation in the tropics, efforts to improve the conservation value of plantations (e.g., certification by the Forest Stewardship Council) are undermined by a lack of knowledge about the specific characteristics of managed forests and plantations that can increase or maintain biodiversity. In part, this lack of information has arisen because most studies assessing tropical diversity focus on the remnants of native vegetation instead of the production matrix, which considers the

plantation as well as the surrounding landscape (Carnus et al. 2006, Franklin and Lindenmayer 2009). Hence, although plantations are frequently established near or within areas of native forest, the relative importance of local conditions for enhancing biodiversity vs. the extent and proximity of nearby natural habitats is not always clear. Furthermore, most studies of biodiversity in tropical plantations to date have focused on species diversity, but we know very little about changes in functional diversity following forest modification (but see Audino et al. 2014, Cisneros et al. 2014, Beiroz et al. 2018).

Studies of taxonomic diversity are of great value for conservation but studies of functional diversity can also provide information about the mechanisms underlying biodiversity loss (Cardinale et al. 2012, Mouillot et al. 2013). As plantations are intensively managed, they represent strong environmental constraints for most species and reduce functional diversity within sites (Bässler et al. 2014). Whereas forest habitats have greater diversity and canopy structure, which enhances environmental heterogeneity and provides habitats for species with different niches (Basset et al. 2001, Košulič et al. 2016). Thus, management strategies emulating environmental conditions of native forests may help maintain functional diversity. In addition, the diversity of the surrounding landscape can promote greater biodiversity within modified and degraded sites (Costa et al. 2017). Consequently, it is conceivable that greater environmental heterogeneity within plantations as well as greater native habitat cover in the surrounding landscape could promote migration and persistence of diverse species in human-modified habitats (Mori et al. 2018).

Information on the relationships between species' functional traits and the filters driving community assembly (i.e. environment, biotic interaction, dispersal processes) in human-modified habitats can provide valuable information for management strategies that balance production and conservation (Cadotte et al. 2011). We therefore aimed to assess the influence of local and landscape factors on biodiversity in *Eucalyptus* plantations set within a matrix of primary Amazonian forest in Brazil, using dung beetles as a focal organism. Dung beetles provide a useful indicator to assess the effects of habitat modification, because most species show a high degree of habitat specificity and are sensitive to environmental changes in tropical forests (Spector and Ayzama 2003, Larsen et al. 2006, Nichols et al. 2007, 2009). Dung beetles can also be examined from both taxonomic and functional perspectives, as their functional or behavioural traits can be linked to ecological processes via their responses to habitat changes (i.e., environmental filters, Barragán et al. 2011, Slade et al. 2011, Nichols et al. 2013). We evaluated the dung

beetle communities in *Eucalyptus* plantations to understand how local and landscape conditions influence dung beetle species and functional diversity and shape their community structure. We focussed on canopy openness as a key environmental condition in plantations because open canopies are associated with higher temperatures and lower levels of humidity in air and soil, which negatively affect many dung beetle species (Gardner et al. 2008, Larsen 2012, Hosaka et al. 2014). We evaluated the extent of native forest cover around each plantation as a key landscape condition, as dung beetle communities in modified habitats may depend on native forest as a source of species (Gray et al. 2016). Finally, we assessed the impact of timber production on dung beetle diversity, as the economic viability is key to ensure the implementation of management strategies to increase biodiversity (see Naumov et al. 2018). We used native forest areas as a baseline representing highly diverse habitat to test the following hypotheses:

- 1) Plantations that have a similar degree of canopy openness to native forests will also have comparable dung beetle communities. Plantations with a high level of canopy openness will have lower taxonomic and functional diversity of dung beetle communities compared to native forest. Canopy openness will also affect community composition and structure in plantations, reducing the number of native forest-associated species and increasing the functional β -diversity.
- 2) Plantations with a high proportion of surrounding native forest cover will have a higher taxonomic or functional diversity of dung beetles. The extent of the surrounding native vegetation will influence community composition and structure such that greater cover of surrounding native forest will increase the number of forest-associated species within plantations, resulting in a functional structure similar to primary forest.
- 3) Based on the premise that the intensification of production and the suppression of native vegetation has negative impacts on biodiversity (Flohre et al. 2011), dung beetle taxonomic and functional diversity metrics will decline with increasing timber production and hence dung beetle communities in plantations and native forests will be more dissimilar at sites with high timber production.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

134 Study site

Our data was collected in the Jari River basin in the north-eastern Brazilian Amazon, on the border between Pará and Amapá States (00°27′ - 01°30′ S, 51°40′ - 53°20′ W). The area has a mean annual temperature of 26.9 ±0.6°C, with mean maxima and

minima of 31.4 \pm 1.1°C and 22.5 \pm 0.2°C, respectively (Climate-Data.org 2016). It has a tropical monsoon climate, with a marked wet season from January to June, a distinct dry season from September to November, and an average annual rainfall of 2115 mm (Amw in Köppen climate classification; Parry et al. 2007). The intensive replacement of native forest by exotic tree plantations started in 1967 and the area is now a continuous block of virtually undisturbed *terra firme* primary forest (> 5000 km²) connected by primary forest corridors (*ca.* 200 m wide) with large patches of exotic tree plantations, mainly *Eucalyptus* sp. (450 km²; Figure 1; Parry et al. 2007).



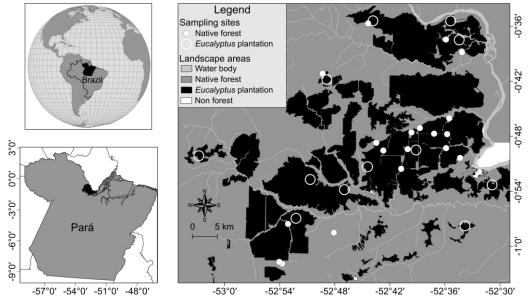


Figure 1: Map of the Jari River basin in Pará State, Brazil, showing the location of *Eucalyptus* plantations in which dung beetle communities were sampled; white circles delineate 1-km buffers around the plantation sites, and white dots represent reference sites in native forest.

Dung beetle sampling

The annual rainfall in 2009 was considered high for the region, with 2081 mm during the wet season and 153 mm in the previous dry season (mean dry season rainfall from 2008 to 2013 was 113 mm). We sampled dung beetles during March and April 2009 in 12 *Eucalyptus* plantations, varying in age from 2–5 years (stands are harvested after 5–7 years). The *Eucalyptus* sites have been cleared, burned and bulldozed since the early 1970's to 1980's and all native vegetation colonizing the understorey is periodically cleared or suppressed by herbicidal treatment (Louzada et al. 2010). The distance between plantations and the nearest area of native forest ranged from 0.2 to 1.6 km. We also sampled in eight primary forest corridors and 12 areas of undisturbed primary forest; we considered these collectively as sites of 'native forest', as they could facilitate

colonisation into the plantations. Furthermore, although the community structure of dung beetles differs between forest corridors and undisturbed forest sites (Barlow et al. 2007), they are comparatively much more similar to undisturbed forest than plantations (Beiroz et al. 2018).

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At each site, we set up one transect of five pitfalls traps, located 150 m apart and at least 500 m from the edge. The traps consisted of plastic containers (19 cm diameter and 11 cm deep), which were part-filled with water, salt, and detergent, baited with 30 g of human dung, and protected from rain with a plastic lid suspended 20 cm above the surface. Sampling took place over a period of 48 hours at each site. Dung beetle specimens were transported from the field in 90% alcohol, and then sorted and stored in paper envelopes in the laboratory. We identified the dung beetles using the New World Scarabaeinae key to genera and subgenera (Vaz-De-Mello et al. 2011), a field guide for dung beetles in the Jari River basin (Louzada et al. *in prep.*), and the reference collection 'Coleção de Referência de Escarabeíneos Neotropicais' at the Universidade Federal de Lavras (CREN – UFLA) in Minas Gerais State, Brazil. Identifications were made to species level where possible; where there was uncertainty, beetles were identified to genus level and assigned a morphospecies number. All specimens were deposited at CREN – UFLA.

We obtained information on dung beetle functional groups with two independent surveys, in January and February 2012, and in November and December 2013 (see Beiroz et al. 2017 for details). The beetles were grouped by activity period, dietary preference, and nesting behaviour. To determine the diurnal or nocturnal activity period we sampled beetles from 7:00 to 18:00 and from 19:00 to 6:00, respectively. To assess dietary preference (coprophagous, necrophagous, or generalists) we baited the pitfall traps with dung and carrion and assigned the dung beetle species as necrophagous or coprophagous based on the statistical significance (p < 0.05) of IndVal analysis for carcass or dung baited pitfalls, respectively; or as generalist when there was no significant association with any bait (p > 0.05; Beiroz et al. 2018). Finally, beetles were assigned as rollers (telecoprids), tunnelers (paracoprids), or dwellers (endocoprids), based on their genus (Halffter and Matthew, 1966; Beiroz et al. 2017). We obtained average species body mass calculated from the mean dry mass of 15 individuals (or the maximum number available) of each species using a precision balance (0.001 g) after oven-drying for 48 h in 40 °C; for species with few sampled individuals we used additional specimens previously deposited at CREN – UFLA.

Predictors of taxonomic and functional metrics

We used canopy openness as a key environmental variable that was likely to influence the response of dung beetles within the range of the age of our plantation sites (2-5 years), as new sites are rapidly colonized and more open canopies are associated with higher temperatures and lower levels of humidity in air and soil, which negatively affect many dung beetle species (Gardner et al. 2008, Larsen 2012, Hosaka et al. 2014). To estimate canopy openness, we took semi-hemispheric photographs of forest canopy at 1.5-m above ground level at each pitfall trap location in 2009 and analysed the images in gap light analyser (GLA) software to obtain the percentage openness (Frazer et al. 1999). Canopy openness was not correlated to *Eucalyptus* tree age (Figure S1) and could therefore be assessed independently of timber production.

We estimated the percentage of native forest cover within a 1-km buffer surrounding each sampling point in *Eucalyptus* plantations using GIS data provided by the landowner. The size of the buffer was determined based on previous studies of dung beetles movement (da Silva and Hernández 2015) to give a realistic distance for recolonisation of disturbed areas within 1-2 years.

Timber production was calculated from data provided by the landowner in tons of timber produced per hectare and corrected for the age of the trees at harvest (t ha⁻¹ age⁻¹). The landowner provided data on timber biomass obtained from each plantation site from 2007 up to 2013, and we used the mean value of all these years as the timber production variable. However, due to the confidentiality of commercial data we only give the standardized value. Finally, to account for the potential confounding influence of soil structure on some dung beetle functional groups and community metrics (Beiroz et al. 2017), we also determined the average coarse sand content (g kg⁻¹) of each site. Soil samples were taken from 0-10 cm depth at four points near each pitfall trap at each site in 2013, we then calculated the average value for each site. The company informed their density of timber biomass obtained from each plantation site from 2007 up to 2013, and we used the mean value of all these years as the timber production variable. However, due to agreement reasons we show the standardized value.

Data analysis

All analyses were conducted in R version 3.4.4 (R Core Team 2018) and all environmental variables were standardised to zero mean and unit standard deviation prior

to analysis. We analysed data from *Eucalyptus* plantation plots using the native forest data as a baseline reference, but we did not make direct statistical comparisons between plantations and native forest sites.

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To assess the composition and structure of dung beetle communities at each site, we calculated Jaccard's dissimilarity based on presence-absence data, and Bray-Curtis' dissimilarity based on number of individuals per species, using the *vegdist* function in the vegan package (Oksanen et al. 2017). Total dung beetle abundance and species richness were determined from the number of individuals and (morpho-) species at each Eucalyptus site. The community-weighted mean of dung beetle body mass (CWM body mass) at each site was calculated as the mean species body mass, weighted by the relative abundance of the species (for more details Lavorel et al. 2008). We calculated the Simpson's diversity index (1-D) for each sampling site using the *diversity* function in the vegan package and the conceptually similar Rao's quadratic entropy index (FDq) using the function mpd in the picante package (Kembel et al. 2010). FDq was calculated using beetle functional groups as categorical traits and the log-transformed data of mean species body mass as a continuous trait. These indices give a combined measure of taxonomic (Simpson's diversity) and functional (FDq) diversity and evenness. To provide a measure of functional redundancy or singularity, we also calculated functional originality (FOri; Mouillot et al. 2013). FOri estimates the isolation of species in functional space by dividing the minimum functional distance (higher than zero) of each species by the maximum of overall distance in the PCoA generated by the dbFD function in the FD package (Laliberté et al. 2014).

The capacity of plantations to harbour species from native forest areas was determined by the number of individuals of dung beetle species associated with native forest. We assigned the species into groups associated with native forest or plantations using the 'simple majority' from the CLAM statistical approach (*clamtest* function) in the *vegan* package and we applied the sample coverage correction for rare species based on species with less than 10 individuals (Chazdon et al. 2011). To obtain a metric of functional similarity between *Eucalyptus* plantations and native forest, we calculated the mean and standard deviation of functional β -diversity for each pair of *Eucalyptus* and native forest sites based on the partitioning of FDq using the *RAO* function in R (De Bello et al. 2010, Ricotta et al. 2011).

To evaluate the influence of environmental variables and timber production on biodiversity metrics, we built a distance-based linear model (DistLM) for dung beetle

community composition and structure, using the dblm function on the dbstats package (Boj et al. 2017); we used generalised linear models (GLM) with a negative binomial error distribution for species abundance (glm.nb function in the MASS package; Venables and Ripley 2002), a quasi-Poisson distribution for species richness, a Gamma distribution for CWM body mass, and linear models (LM) with Gaussian distribution for Simpson's diversity, FDq and FOri. We first checked for collinearity among explanatory variables using the variance inflation factor (vif function in the car package; Fox and Weisberg 2011), which was equal to or lower than 2.16 in all cases. All full models therefore included canopy openness, forest cover, timber production and coarse sand content as explanatory variables - the last variable was included because it has strong influence on dung beetles (Beiroz et al. 2017), even it is not modified in plantations and we did not aim to evaluate its significance. We selected the best models for each response variable based on their AICc values using the *dredge* function in the *MuMIn* package (Bartoń 2016) to rank our models, or manually for DistLMs. As models for species richness were fitted using a quasi-Poisson error distribution, they were evaluated using quasi-AICc values (QAICc).

To test whether the environmental variables predicted the abundance of dung beetle species associated with native forest or the functional β -diversity shared between native forest and plantations, we built a GLM with a negative binomial distribution for native forest species and Gaussian distribution for functional β -diversity. We used the same explanatory variables (albeit excluding timber production) and model selection process as described above.

Finally, we evaluated the influence of timber production by assessing its importance based on the change in AICc values compared to the best-fitted models for each biodiversity metric, whereby a decrease in the AICc value indicate an effect of timber production on diversity metrics.

RESULTS

We sampled 8324 individuals of dung beetles from 89 species, 43 of which were labelled as morphospecies. In *Eucalyptus* plantations, we recorded 1995 individuals of 50 species, and in native forests we sampled 6329 individuals of 78 species. *Eucalyptus* plantations and native forest shared 39 species. Most of species exclusive to plantations were singletons (*Ateuchus* sp. C, *Canthon mutabilis*, *Eurysternus cyclops*, *Onthophagus onthochromus*) or doubletons (*Canthon* aff. *acutus*, *Canthon lituratus*, *Trichillidium* sp.

A). Four species were found frequently in plantations *Canthon* aff. *heyrovskyi* (5 individuals), *Onthophagus* aff. *marginicollis* (8 individuals), *Ontherus sulcator* (15 individuals) and *Canthon simulans* (78 individuals) and the most abundant species in *Eucalyptus* plantations was *Ontherus carinifrons* (587 individuals).

We obtained information to assign 8218 individuals from 69 (morpho-) species to functional groups (99% of the total individuals and 78% of all morphospecies). When dung beetles were grouped by dietary preference, 72% were coprophagous (5219 individuals of 50 species), 12% were necrophagous (467 individuals of 11 species) and 16% were generalists (2532 individuals of 8 species). For nesting behaviour, 58% were tunnelers (6099 individuals of 40 species), 26% were rollers (1056 individuals of 18 species) and 16% were dwellers (1063 individuals of 11 species). We were able to assign activity period to 7884 individuals of 60 species (95% of the total individuals and 67% of all morphospecies), of which 55% (3971 individuals of 33 species) were diurnal and the remaining 45% (3913 individuals of 27 species) were nocturnal.

Most dung beetle metrics were lower in the plantations compared to reference forest sites (dashed lines in Figure 3 and Figure S2). Among plantation sites, the coarse sand content of the soil largely explained the variation in dung beetle community structure (Table S3, Figure 2), whereby abundance and functional β-diversity increased with coarse sand content (Table S3, Figures 2 and 3a-b), whereas CWM body mass decreased slightly (Table S3, Figures 2 and 3c-d). The canopy openness in *Eucalyptus* plantations was negatively related to dung beetle abundance, although the relationship was weak, and FOri (Table S3, Figures 2 and 4a and d). None of the other community metrics were explained by canopy openness in plantations (Table S3, Figure 2).

The percentage cover of surrounding forest explained much of the variation in dung beetle community composition in *Eucalyptus* plantations (Figure 2, Table S3) and was positively related to Simpson's diversity and FDq (Table S3, Figures 2 and 4b). Indeed, the two dung beetle communities sampled from plantations with >23% native forest cover within the 1-km buffer zone were as functionally diverse as native forest communities (Figure 4c). None of the explanatory variables predicted variation in the total species richness or abundance of forest-associated species within plantations (Table S3, Figure 2).

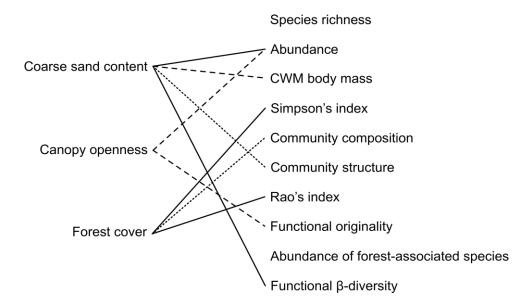


Figure 2: Environmental variables explaining variation in dung beetle community diversity metrics in Eucalyptus plantations in the Brazilian Amazon; showing explanatory variables (left) and response variables (right) of final models with $\Delta AICc > 2$; the lines indicate explanatory variables that were retained in the final models, and the absence of connecting line indicates no relationship between explanatory and response variables. Solid lines indicate positive effects, dashed lines indicate negative effects and we used dotted lines for community composition and structure, as it is not possible to determine the direction of the effect.

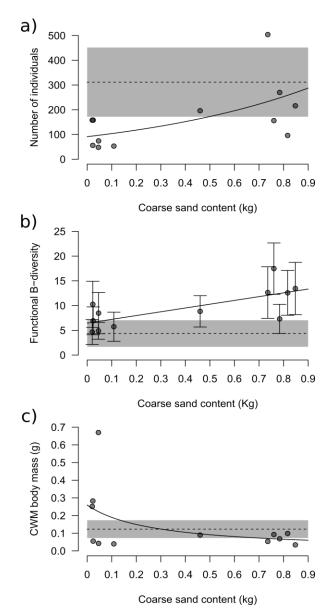


Figure 3: The influence of coarse sand content on (a) dung beetle abundance, (b) functional β -diversity compared to native forest (the bars represent the standard deviations for *Eucalyptus* plantation) and (c) community-weighted mean (CWM) body mass of dung beetle communities in *Eucalyptus* plantations. The solid lines represent the predictive model, the dashed lines and the grey area are the mean and standard deviation values for the native forest (baseline).

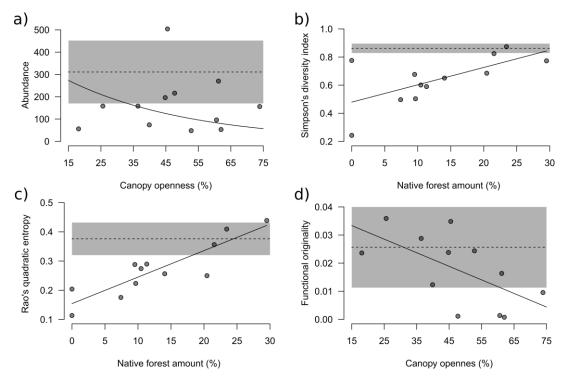


Figure 4: The influence of environmental variables affected by land management on diversity metrics of dung beetle communities in *Eucalyptus* plantations, showing the relationship between canopy openness and (a) dung beetle abundance, and the influence of the surrounding native forest cover on (b) Simpson's diversity index, (c) Rao's quadratic entropy, and (d) functional originality. The solid lines represent the predictive model, the dashed lines and the grey area are the mean and standard deviation values for the native forest (baseline).

There was no clear effect of timber yield on dung beetle diversity, as including timber production in the models inflated AICc and QAICc by more than two unit values for all response variables (Table S3).

DISCUSSION

We evaluated how local forest structure (canopy openness), landscape context (surrounding native forest cover) and timber production influence the taxonomic and functional diversity of dung beetles in *Eucalyptus* plantations. Our hypothesis that canopy openness would have a substantial influence on dung beetle diversity was not fully supported, as only dung beetle abundance and functional originality were negatively related to canopy openness. We also found no evidence to support our hypothesis that timber production intensity would have a negative impact on dung beetle diversity. However, we found strong support for our hypothesis on the important role of landscape context, as the proportion of native forest cover surrounding *Eucalyptus* plantations influenced dung beetle community composition, taxonomic and functional diversity.

Influence of local and landscape variables on dung beetle biodiversity in plantations

All measured environmental variables (coarse sand content, canopy openness and forest cover) explained some variation in dung beetle community metrics (Figure 2). Although the coarse sand content of the soil is not affected by plantation management, it is nonetheless relevant in this context because it influences soil texture and soil fertility (Stadler et al. 2015), which are both important factors for determining the suitability of plantation areas, as well as the extent of the required management (Zinn et al. 2002, Touré et al. 2013). Dung beetle community structure and abundance in plantations were strongly related to the coarse sand content in the soil (Figures 2 and 3), a pattern that has also been observed in undisturbed forest sites in the same region (Beiroz et al. 2017). This relationship is conceivably a result of nesting requirements, because increased sand content is likely to negatively influence the survival rate of the offspring of roller dung beetles, which nest in shallow galleries and are sensitive to upper humid zone of soils with low sand content (Hanski and Cambefort 1991, Osberg et al. 1993, Davis et al. 2010). On the other hand, tunnellers dig deeper galleries, allowing them to nest in sandy soils with a deeper humid zone. Accordingly, the functional structure of dung beetles in plantations was more similar to forest communities in soils with lower coarse sand content (Figure 3c), probably due to the higher capacity of these soils to support roller species. Our results indicate that soil texture could also be an important filter for functional βdiversity of dung beetles by altering the ratio of rollers to tunnelers, and should therefore be considered on conservation strategies focusing in dung beetle communities.

Our results provide strong support for the important role of landscape context in contributing to the biodiversity of plantations, as the extent of native forests in the area surrounding the *Eucalyptus* plantations was associated with higher taxonomic and functional diversity of dung beetles in the plantations (Figures 4b and c). A greater coverage of native forests may enhance spillover (Gray et al. 2014, Marsh et al. 2018) and increased movement of forest species through the plantation. It is possible that some of the sampled individuals of native forest species are only foraging in managed sites, which may not necessarily indicate suitable plantation conditions if these individuals cannot sustain populations or perform key functions within the plantations. These functional considerations merit further investigation, especially as the effect of native forest amount was stronger in functional aspects of the community than in taxonomic diversity. We demonstrate that some plantations had higher functional metrics values than

the baseline, despite only ~20% native forest cover in the buffer area, which is below the previously reported fragmentation threshold for taxonomic diversity (~30% native forest cover; Andrén 1994, Pardini et al. 2010).

Although the functional diversity in plantations increased with the surrounding forest cover (Figures 4c), the extent of forest cover was not related to functional similarity between native forest and plantations. Instead, functional β -diversity was more strongly related to coarse sand content (Figure 3b), and functional originality declined with canopy openness (Figure 4d). These results suggest that there is high functional redundancy in dung beetle communities in plantations, and support a niche-based community assembly in which dung beetle species are selected by both landscape and local filters (Audino et al. 2017). It is conceivable that greater native forest cover around plantations reduces the harshness of dispersal filters, increasing the possibility of colonisation by species that would not otherwise tolerate the environmental conditions in the plantations, which is indicated by the positive relationship between native forest cover and Simpson's diversity and FDq (Figure 4b and c). Greater native forest cover would therefore facilitate the dispersal of forest-associated dung beetle species into plantations, but coarse sand content and canopy openness would influence their ability to establish viable populations.

Our findings indicate that plantations surrounded by a matrix of native forests can support more diverse dung beetle communities than those in landscapes dominated by human-modified habitats (Gray et al. 2014, Filgueiras et al. 2016). Yet it is not clear if this is a positive or negative outcome for conservation. On the one hand, increasing native forest cover could facilitate the movement of forest species into and through non-native habitats (Arellano et al. 2013). On the other hand, plantations could function as 'sink' habitats for populations of native species; this would occur if mortality exceeded birth rates and plantations were unable to sustain viable populations without repeated colonisation from native forests (Hansen and DeFries 2007). In this case, high levels of biodiversity within plantations could have negative consequences, as plantations would represent ecological traps for native forest species (Kokko and Sutherland 2001, Schlaepfer et al. 2002).

Besides environmental and landscape conditions, it is important to conduct further investigation into the availability and quality of resources for dung beetles in plantations (i.e. mammal dung). Monocultures tend to promote the hyper-abundance of a few species (Senior et al. 2013), which might reduce dung beetle functional diversity by altering the composition and availability of dung resources (Nichols et al. 2009). Thus, further studies

are necessary to evaluate the roles of landscape context and local conditions on dispersal and establishment. We also urgently need to assess the stability and resilience of dung beetle communities in modified habitats, focussing on both the short- and long-term potential for plantations to sustain diverse dung beetle communities and the ecosystem functions they underpin. The proximity of viable source populations in native forest, and the inclusion of forest species in plantations could increase dung beetle functional diversity and enhance or restore ecosystem processes affected by land-use change (Rand et al. 2006, Blitzer et al. 2012, Hobbs et al. 2014), as the loss of forest-associated species reduces the functional activity of dung beetle communities in human-modified habitats near native areas (Gray et al. 2016). In our study, the structure of the dung beetle communities in plantations differed from that of forest communities, but the functional metrics we evaluated suggest that they nonetheless have the potential to sustain their role in ecosystem functioning (Ricotta et al. 2016, Leitão et al. 2016), especially when they are supported by dispersal from adjacent native forest.

Is there a trade-off between timber production and biodiversity conservation within plantations?

We found no relationship between the intensity of timber production and any of the studied dung beetle community metrics (Figure 4). This suggests that plantations could potentially be managed to deliver both high yields and biodiversity conservation. However, there are many caveats to this: first, dung beetles are a small component of total biodiversity, and many native forests species are not found in plantations (Louzada et al. 2010). Second, the mechanisms underpinning the high diversity in plantations require testing to assess whether the populations are self-sustaining and performing useful ecological functions. Finally, our measure of timber production was a snapshot at one point in time, and more work is needed to assess whether both biodiversity and production can be maintained over multiple rotations, and to determine the effects of fertilizer and pesticide use on dung beetle communities in plantations.

Final considerations

Even though the plantations supported communities with a distinct functional structure, as little as 20% of native forest cover in the surrounding landscape increased the measured functional diversity to values approaching those measured in primary forest areas (Figure 3g). However, the 1-km buffer considered in our study did not account for

the fact that all sites were set within a much larger continuous area of native forest, which in turn is likely to maintain diversity across the landscape (Numa et al. 2012, Ochoa-Quintero et al. 2014). It is therefore crucial that we maintain the extent of forest cover required by the current Brazilian 'forest code', which mandates the conservation of up to 80% of forest on properties across most of the Legal Amazon region (Brasil 2012). Our findings suggest that the surrounding cover of native habitat is likely to improve taxonomic and functional diversity by facilitating the movement of forest species into plantations. However, further studies are required to understand the viability and persistence of dung beetle populations within plantations, and to determine whether the functional diversity of dung beetle communities enhances ecosystem functioning.

Previous studies have showed that *Eucalyptus* plantations have a great potential conservation value if considered as complementary habitat for species from native forest, and managed as a hybrid ecosystem (i.e. by conserving historical and novel features, Hobbs et al. 2009, Tavares et al. 2019). Although we still need more information on ecosystem processes and population persistence in plantations, our results suggest that plantation management considering both landscape aspects and stand structure could increase the conservation value of plantations (Tavares et al. 2019) if the presence of functionally diverse dung beetle communities is deemed an important management goal.

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755 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

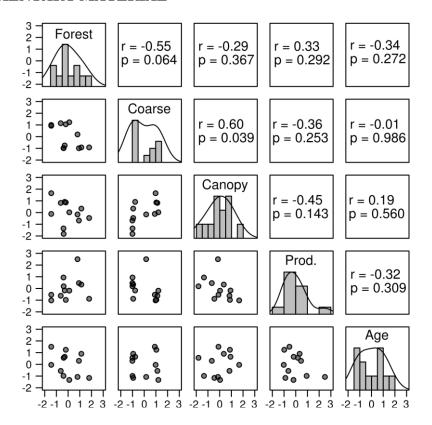


Figure S1: Pearson's correlations (r) and its 95% statistic significance (p) among standardized values of explanatory variables and age of *Eucalyptus* trees. 'Forest' is forest cover, 'Coarse' is coarse sand content, 'Canopy' is canopy openness, 'Prod.' is timber production and 'Age' is for trees' age.

761 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

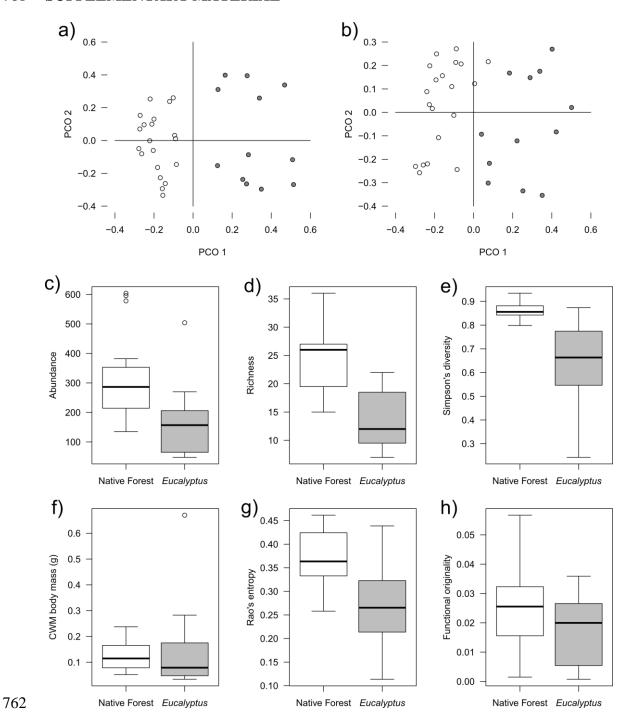


Figure S2: Comparisons between native forest (white) and *Eucalyptus* plantation (grey) areas, regarding community (a) structure and (b) composition, as well as the metrics of (c) abundance, (d) species richness, (e) Simpson's diversity index, (f) community-weighted mean body mass, (g) Rao's quadratic entropy, and (h) functional originality.

767 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Table S3: Models based on AICc for each response variable with explanatory variables. 'CO' = Canopy openness, 'CS' = Coarse sand content, 'FC' = Forest cover, 'TP' = Timber production, and 'w' = Akaike weight for each model. Bold font highlights the models with $\Delta AICc \leq 2$ and italic font for the models fitted with TP. *Quasi-AICc for species richness.

Community parameters	Model variables	AICc*	ΔΑΙСα	w	cumulative w
Species richness	NULL	31.11	0.00	0.556	0.556
	CO	34.40	3.29	0.107	0.664
	TP	34.63	3.52	0.096	0.760
	FC	34.73	3.62	0.091	0.851
	CS	34.77	3.67	0.089	0.940
Total abundance -	CS	145.54	0.00	0.365	0.365
	CO+CS	145.94	0.40	0.300	0.665
	NULL	148.48	2.93	0.084	0.749
	FC	148.73	3.18	0.074	0.823
	CS+TP	149.31	3.76	0.056	0.879
	CS+FC	149.80	4.26	0.043	0.922
	CS	-18.87	0.00	0.559	0.559
	NULL	-16.69	2.18	0.188	0.747
CWM body mass	CO+CS	-15.07	3.80	0.084	0.831
_	FC+CS	-14.64	4.23	0.067	0.898
	CS+TP	-14.33	4.54	0.058	0.956
	FC	-6.69	0.00	0.492	0.492
	NULL	-3.76	2.92	0.114	0.606
Simpson's' diversity - index -	FO+CO	-3.20	3.49	0.085	0.692
	CS	-2.82	3.87	0.071	0.763
	CO	-2.34	4.34	0.056	0.819
	FC+TP	-2.33	4.36	0.056	0.875
	CS+TP	-2.23	4.46	0.053	0.928
Community composition -	FC	-28.80	0.00	0.998	0.998
	FC+TP	0.39	29.19	~0	0.998
Community structure -	CS	-64.05	0.00	~1.000	~1.000
	CS+TP	-29.32	34.73	~0	~1.000
	FC	-32.90	0.00	0.566	0.566
Rao's quadratic entropy -	FC+CS	-30.48	2.43	0.169	0.735
Rao's quadratic entropy =	FC+TP	-29.96	2.95	0.130	0.864
	CO+FC	-28.50	4.40	0.063	0.927
Functional originality _ - -	CO	-68.18	0.00	0.431	0.431
	NULL	-66.33	1.85	0.171	0.602
	TP	-65.28	2.90	0.101	0.703
	CS	-64.63	3.55	0.073	0.777
	CO+TP	-64.18	4.00	0.058	0.835
	CO+FC	-63.89	4.29	0.051	0.885
	CO+CS	-63.48	4.70	0.041	0.926

Table S3: Cont.

7	7	5

Community parameters	Model	AICc*	ΔΑΙС	w	cumulative
	variables				\mathcal{W}
Abundance of forest-associated species	NULL	105.06	0.00	0.460	0.460
	CO	107.18	2.12	0.159	0.619
	CS	108.39	3.33	0.087	0.706
	TP	108.40	3.33	0.087	0.792
	FC	108.44	3.37	0.085	0.878
	CO+CS	109.59	4.53	0.048	0.925
Functional β-diversity	CS	66.02	0.00	0.504	0.504
	FC+CS	68.60	2.58	0.139	0.643
	FC	68.83	2.81	0.124	0.767
	CS+TP	70.30	4.28	0.059	0.826
	CO+CS	70.33	4.31	0.058	0.884
	NULL	71.26	5.24	0.037	0.921