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ATLANTIC-CAMTRAPS: a dataset of medium and large terrestrial mammal communities in the Atlantic Forest of South America

Fernando Lima[2]*, Gabrielle Beca, Renata de Lara Muylaert, Clinton N. Jenkins, Miriam Lucia Lages Perilli, Ana Maria de Oliveira Paschoal, Rodrigo Lima Massara, Adriano Pereira Paglia, Adriano Garcia Chiarello, Maurício Eduardo Graipel, Jorge José Cherem, André Luis Regolin, Luiz Gustavo Rodrigues Oliveira Santos, Carlos Rodrigo Brocardo, Agustín Paviolo, Mario S. Di Bitetti, Leandro Moraes Scoss, Fabiana Lopes Rocha, Roberto Fusco-Costa, Clarissa Alves da Rosa, Marina Xavier da Silva, Ludmila Hufnagel, Paloma Marques Santos, Gabriela Teixeira Duarte, Luiza Neves Guimarães, Larissa Lynn Bailey, Flávio Henrique Guimarães Rodrigues, Heitor Morais Cunha, Felipe Moreli Fantacini, Graziele Oliveira Batista, Juliano André Bogoni, Marco Adriano Tortato, Micheli Ribeiro Luiz, Nivaldo Peroni, Pedro Volkmer de Castilho, Thiago Bernardes Maccarini, Vilmar Picinatto Filho, Carlos De Angelo, Paula Cruz, Verónica Quiroga, María Eugenia Iezzi, Diego Varela, Sandra Maria Cintra Cavalcanti, Alexandre Camargo Martensen, Erica Vanessa Maggiorini, Fabíola Ferreira Keesen, André Valle Nunes, Gisele Mendes Lessa, Pedro Cordeiro-Estrela, Mayara Guimarães Beltrão, Anna Carolina Figueiredo de Albuquerque, Bianca Ingberman, Camila Righetto Cassano, Laury Cullen Junior, Milton Cezar Ribeiro[*], Mauro Galetti

Abstract: Our understanding of mammal ecology has always been hindered by the difficulties of observing species in closed tropical forests. Camera trapping has become a major advance for monitoring terrestrial mammals in biodiversity rich ecosystems. Here we compiled one of the largest datasets of inventories of terrestrial mammal communities for the Neotropical region based on camera trapping studies. The dataset comprises 170 surveys of medium to large terrestrial mammals using camera traps conducted in 144 areas by 74 studies, covering six vegetation types of tropical and subtropical Atlantic Forest of South America (Brazil and Argentina), and present data on species composition and richness. The complete dataset comprises 53,438 independent records of 83 species of mammals, includes 10 species of marsupials, 15 rodents, 20 carnivores, 8 ungulates and 6 armadillos. Species richness averaged 13 species (± 6.07 SD) per site. Only six species occurred in more than 50% of the sites: the domestic dog *Canis familiaris*, crab-eating fox *Cerdocyon thous*, tayra *Eira barbara*, south American coati *Nasua nasua*, crab-eating raccoon *Procyon cancrivorus* and the nine-banded armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus.* The information contained in this dataset can be used to understand macroecological patterns of biodiversity, community, and population structure, but also to evaluate the ecological consequences of fragmentation, defaunation, and trophic interactions.

Key words: Atlantic Forest, forest fragmentation, camera traps, neotropical mammals, biodiversity hotspot, mammal communities, invasive species

*Corresponding Author. E-mail: pardalismitis@gmail.com