

Research Article

Faunistic analysis of fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) in a guava orchard and semideciduous forest fragment in Central-West Region of Brazil

Análisis de la fauna de moscas de la fruta (Diptera: Tephritidae) en un huerto de guayaba y en un fragmento de bosque semideciduo en la región centro-oeste de Brasil

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Abstract. The fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritoidea), are the dipteran with greater economic importance, including pest species of various fruit crops such as guava. For the management of these pests, it is essential to know what species are present in the culture, as well as in the surrounding native vegetation, which may serve as a reservoir for these species. The objective of this research was to characterize and compare through faunistic analysis (frequency, abundance, constancy, equitativity, richness and diversity) populations of *Anastrepha* Schiner and *Ceratitidis capitata* (Wiedemann) and a commercial guava orchard in a fragment of adjacent native semideciduous forest in Central-West Region of Brazil. The fruit flies were collected from January 2008 to March 2009, through McPhail traps containing 5% solution of corn syrup. A total of 4,180 fruit fly specimens were collected in the forest fragment, and 20,108 in the guava orchard. Besides *C. capitata*, nine species of *Anastrepha* were found in the forest, with *A. undosa* Stone occurring exclusively in this ecosystem. In the orchard, *C. capitata* and eleven *Anastrepha* species were collected, three of them exclusively found in this ecosystem: *A. amita* Zucchi, *A. zenildae* Zucchi, and *A. distincta* Greene. The species *A. sororcula* Zucchi and *A. fraterculus* (Wiedemann) were classified as superabundant, constant, superdominant and superfrequent in both ecosystems. The species richness and abundance were higher in the guava orchard than in the forest fragment.

Key words: Agricultural Entomology, insect management, pomiculture, Neotropical fauna.

Resumen. Las moscas de la fruta (Diptera: Tephritoidea), son los dípteros con mayor importancia económica, siendo consideradas especies plagas de diversos cultivos frutales como la guayaba. Para el manejo de estas plagas, es esencial saber qué especies están presentes en el cultivo, así como en la vegetación nativa circundante, que puede servir como reservorio de estas especies. El objetivo de esta investigación fue caracterizar y comparar a través de un análisis faunísticos (frecuencia, abundancia, constancia, equitatividad, riqueza y diversidad) poblaciones de *Anastrepha* Schiner y *Ceratitidis capitata* (Wiedemann) en un huerto de guayaba comercial en un fragmento de bosque semideciduo nativo adyacente en Región Centro-Oeste de Brasil. Las moscas de la fruta se recolectaron desde enero de 2008 hasta marzo de 2009, a través de trampas McPhail que contenían una solución al 5% de jarabe de maíz. Se recolectó un total de 4.180 ejemplares de moscas de la fruta en el fragmento de bosque y 20.108 en el huerto de guayaba. Además de *C. capitata*, se encontraron nueve especies de *Anastrepha* en el bosque, con *A. undosa* Stone exclusivamente en este ecosistema. En el huerto, se recolectaron *C.*

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capitata y once especies de *Anastrepha*, tres de ellas encontradas exclusivamente en este ecosistema: *A. amita* Zucchi, *A. zenildae* Zucchi y *A. distincta* Greene. Las especies *A. sororcula* Zucchi y *A. fraterculus* (Wiedemann) se clasificaron como superabundantes, constantes, superdominantes y superfrecuentes en ambos ecosistemas. La riqueza y abundancia de especies fue mayor en el huerto de guayabo que en el fragmento de bosque.

Palabras clave: Entomología Agrícola, fauna neotropical, manejo de insectos pomicultura.

Introduction

The Tephritidae family includes the true fruit flies, are considered the most agriculturally important, with a number of species recognized as pests of cultivated plants (Norrbon 2010). In Brazil, four fruit fly genera with agricultural importance are recorded: *Anastrepha* Schiner, *Bactrocera* Macquart, *Ceratitis* MacLeay e *Rhagoletis* Loew (Carvalho *et al.* 2012), being *Anastrepha* and *Ceratitis* the most important pest of pomiculture (Zucchi 2000).

Anastrepha is represented in the New World by 213 endemic species (Uramoto *et al.* 2008), four of them considered important pests of guava crops in Brazil: *A. fraterculus* (Wiedemann), *A. sororcula* Zucchi, *A. striata* Schiner, and *A. zenildae* Zucchi (Araújo *et al.* 2013).

Ceratitis capitata (Wiedemann), the Mediterranean fly, occurs in virtually all the tropical and warm temperate regions of the globe (Zucchi 2000). In Brazil, *C. capitata* infests preferentially fruits of introduced plants (Malavasi & Morgante 1980), but has also been recorded infesting native fruits as guava (Araújo *et al.* 2013). *Ceratitis capitata* is considered the fruit fly species with highest potential of adaptation and polyphagy in Brazil (Malavasi *et al.* 1980; Zahler 1990).

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) is native to Brazil and Neotropical Americas, but it is cultivated in warmer regions of many countries around the world (Singh & Pal 2008). Fruit flies are important guava pests (Zucchi 2000), causing the early falling and depreciation of fruits either for fresh consumption or industrialization (Ferrara *et al.* 2005). At the present, *C. capitata* and at least sixteen *Anastrepha* species have been identified as guava pests (Zucchi 2007; Souza-Filho *et al.* 2009), although the composition of these species may differ regarding a number of factors, like the geographic region (Araujo *et al.* 2013) and environment, i.e. native vegetation or orchard (Bomfim *et al.* 2007).

In Brazil, faunistic analyses of fruit flies associated to guava orchards have been conducted in the States of Rio de Janeiro (Aguiar-Menezes *et al.* 2008), Bahia (Dutra *et al.* 2009), and Ceará (Azevedo *et al.* 2010; Moura & Moura 2006). On the other hand, natural preserved ecosystems are reservoirs for fruit flies populations and their natural enemies (Malavasi & Morgante 1980), from where important information on the biology, ecology and evolution of those flies could be obtained (Aluja *et al.* 2003). Faunistic analyses of fruit flies associated to native vegetation are only provided for the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso do Sul (Canesin & Uchoa 2007; Almeida *et al.* 2019; Nicásio *et al.* 2019; Oliveira *et al.* 2019) and Tocantins (Bomfim *et al.* 2007).

This study aimed to identify, characterize and compare populations of fruit flies in a commercial orchard of guava and surrounding native forest fragment in Itaporã, Mato Grosso do Sul State, Central-West Region of Brazil, by means of faunistic analysis.

Material and Methods

This study was conducted in a commercial guava orchard (21°54'23"S, 54°42'34"W, altitude 310 m) and surrounding semi deciduous forest fragment (21°54'18"S, 54°42'24"W, altitude

315 m) of about 4.0 ha in Itaporã, Gleba Santa Terezinha, Mato Grosso do Sul State, Central-West Region of Brazil. The fruit flies were collected with McPhail traps baited with 5% corn enzymatic hydrolyzed solution, pH 8.5 to 9.0 adjusted with borax. Sampling was made from January 2008 to March 2009, using 29 McPhail traps in the guava orchard, and from September 2008 to March 2009, with 17 McPhail traps in the forest fragment. The traps were linearly disposed, distanced at least 40 m from each other, in about 1.6 m from the ground level, in the shad. Removals of the collected material, along with bait repositions, were made weakly.

The fruit flies collected were identified and quantified in the Entomology Laboratory of the Universidade Federal da Grande Dourados—UFGD. As the taxonomy of this genus is primarily based on females, the faunistic analysis were based only in female *Anastrepha* numbers. The species were identified to the specific level with identification keys of Steyskal (1977), Zucchi (2000), and Uramoto (2007), after been fixed in 70% ethanol. Voucher specimens were deposited in the Museu da Biodiversidade (UFGD).

The faunistic analysis (Silveira-Neto *et al.* 1976) was based on the following parameters, calculated with the software ANAFU (Moraes *et al.* 2003):

Frequency: $F = n/N \times 100$, where, F = frequency (%), n = number of individuals of a species, N = total number of individuals collected. The frequency values obtained were classified as: super-frequent (SF)—frequency higher than the upper bound of the 99% confidence interval; very frequent (VF)—frequency higher than the upper bound of the 95% confidence interval; frequent (F)—frequency nested between the lower and upper bounds of the 95% confidence interval; infrequent (I)— frequency lower than the lower bound of the 95% confidence interval.

Dominance (method of Sakagami & Laroca (1971)): $LD = (1/S) \times 100$, where: LD = dominance limit (%), S = total number of species of the sample. The dominance values obtained were classified as: super-dominant (SD) — dominance higher than the upper bound of the 99% confidence interval; very dominant (VD) — dominance higher than the upper bound of the 95% confidence interval; dominant (D) — dominance nested between the lower and upper bounds of the 95% confidence interval; nondominant (ND) — dominance lower than the lower bond of the 95% confidence interval.

Abundance: Number of individuals in relation to the sampled area, with variation on time (populational) and space (between different communities). The values obtained were classified as: super abundant (sa) —abundance higher than the upper bound of the 99% confidence interval; very abundant (va) —abundance nested between the upper bounds of the confidence intervals of 99 and 95%; common (c) —abundance nested between the lower and upper bounds of the 95% confidence interval; incidental (i)—abundance nested between the lower bounds of the confidence intervals of 99 and 95%.

Constancy: Percentage of sample units on which a species was present. Constant: (w): present in more than 50% of the sample units; accessory (y): present in 25% to 50% of the sample units; accidental (z): present in less than 25% of the sample units.

Equitativity: Refers to how the abundance of each species is distributed in a community. When all species are equally abundant, equitativity has its maximum value, and decreases tending to zero as the relative abundances differ in this equality.

Diversity: Margalef diversity index (α) depends on the species richness (total number of species in a community) and species abundance. The comparison between the Margalef index for the forest fragment and orchard was made by overlapping the confidence intervals.

Results

In this work, only populations of species of *Anastrepha* and *C. capitata* were analyzed, due to their economic importance and because they were the most abundant taxa captured in the fruit flies community.

Twelve species of *Anastrepha* were identified: *A. amita* Zucchi, *A. daciformis* Bezzi, *A. distincta* Greene, *A. fraterculus* (Wiedemann), *A. montei* Lima, *A. obliqua* (Macquart), *A. pseudoparallela* (Loew), *A. sororcula* Zucchi, *A. striata* Schiner, *A. turpiniae* Stone, *A. undosa* Stone, and *A. zenildae* Zucchi.

In the fragment of semideciduous forest, 4,171 specimens of *Anastrepha* were captured, along with nine specimens of *C. capitata*. Nine species of *Anastrepha* were detected in the forest, with *A. undosa* occurring exclusively in this ecosystem (Fig. 1). In the orchard, 19,952 specimens of *Anastrepha* and 156 of *C. capitata* were captured, with the occurrence of 11 species of *Anastrepha*, three of them exclusively found in this ecosystem: *A. amita*, *A. zenildae*, and *A. distincta* (Fig. 1).

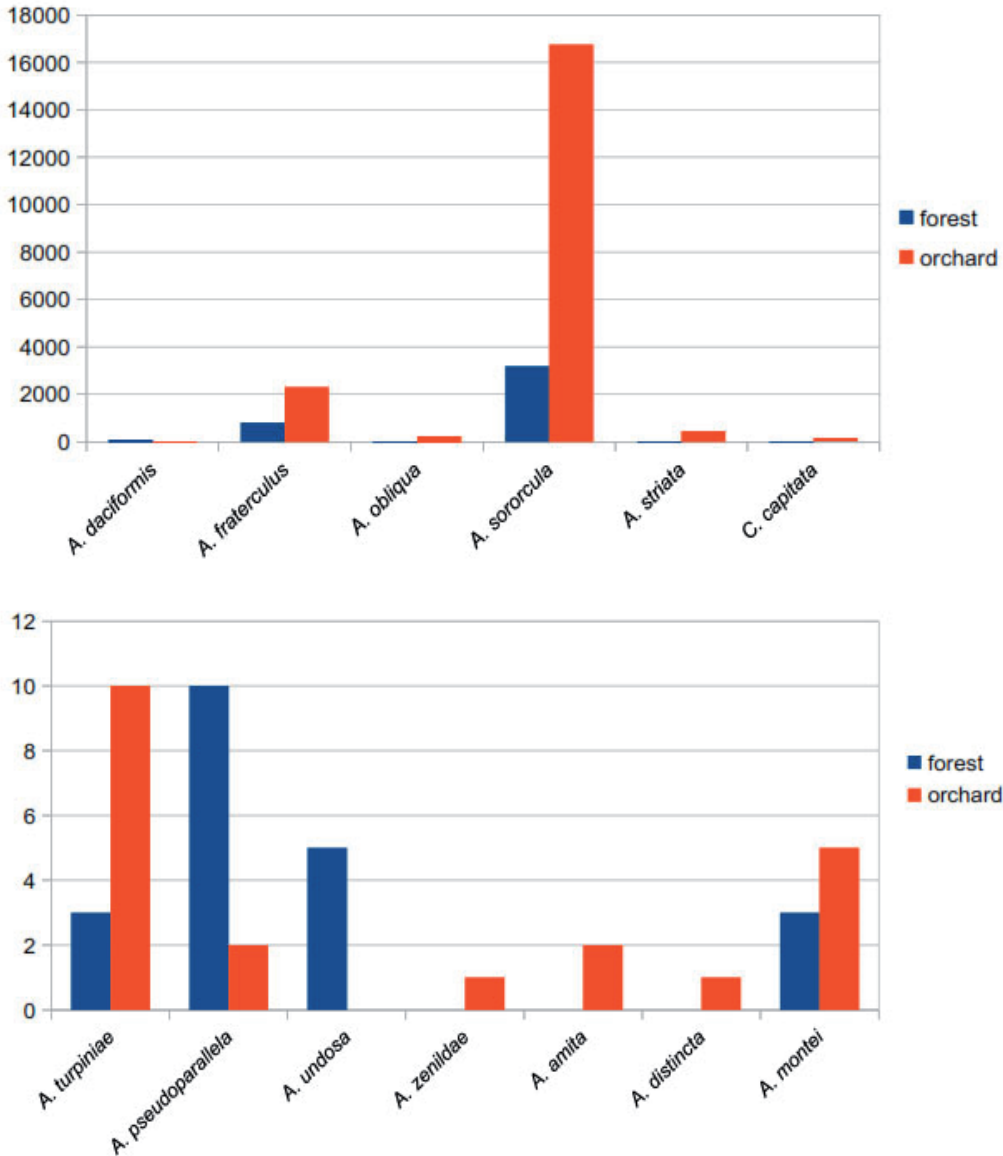


Figure 1. Number of female specimens of the six more abundant species (top) and seven less abundant species (bottom) of fruit flies caught with McPhail traps, in a fragment of semideciduous forest, and in a commercial orchard of guava in Itaporã, MS, Brazil, from 2008 to 2009.

In the forest, the species with the highest values in the faunistic analysis were *A. sororcula*, *A. fraterculus* and *A. daciformis*, with the former species comprising 76.2% of female fruit flies captured. These three species were classified as super-dominant, super-abundant, and super-frequent. The remaining species showed frequencies lower than 1% (Table 1). Regarding constancy, *A. sororcula* and *A. fraterculus* were classified as constant, while *A. daciformis* was classified as accessory. Four species were classified as accidental: *A. montei*, *A. turpiniae*, *A. undosa*, and *C. capitata*.

Table 1. Results of the faunistic analysis conducted for fruit fly species captured with McPhail traps in a semideciduous forest fragment and in a commercial orchard of guava in Itaporã, MS, Brazil, from 2008 to 2009.

Species	Number of specimens		Frequency		Dominance		Abundance		Constancy	
	Forest	Orchard	Forest	Orchard	Forest	Orchard	Forest	Orchard	Forest	Orchard
<i>A. amita</i>	-	2	-	F	-	ND	-	c	-	z
<i>A. daciformis</i>	114	6	SF	F	SD	D	sa	c	y	z
<i>A. distincta</i>	-	1	-	I	-	ND	-	i	-	z
<i>A. fraterculus</i>	791	2316	SF	SF	SD	SD	sa	sa	w	w
<i>A. montei</i>	3	4	I	F	ND	D	i	c	z	z
<i>A. obliqua</i>	31	249	VF	SF	D	SD	va	sa	y	w
<i>A. pseudoparallela</i>	8	2	F	F	ND	ND	c	c	y	z
<i>A. sororcula</i>	3185	16888	SF	SF	SD	SD	sa	sa	w	w
<i>A. striata</i>	31	473	VF	SF	D	SD	va	sa	y	w
<i>A. turpiniae</i>	3	10	I	VF	ND	D	i	va	z	y
<i>A. undosa</i>	5	-	F	-	ND	-	c	-	z	-
<i>A. zenilidae</i>	-	1	-	I	-	ND	-	i	-	z
<i>C. capitata</i>	9	156	F	SF	ND	SD	c	sa	z	w

Abbreviations: SF: super-frequent; VF: very frequent; F: frequent; I: infrequent; SD: super-dominant; D: dominant; ND: nondominant; sa: super-abundant; va: very abundant; c: common; i: incidental; w: constant; y: accessory; z: accidental; -: not detected.

In the orchard, *A. sororcula*, *A. fraterculus*, *A. obliqua*, *A. striata* and *C. capitata* showed the highest frequency values and were classified as super-dominant, super-abundant, and super-frequent. *Anastrepha sororcula*, however, corresponded to 84.5% of the female fruit flies captured. The remaining seven species were classified in other categories in terms of frequency, dominance and abundance. Regarding constancy, five species were constant, one accessory and six accidental (Table 1). In addition to the species richness (forest 10; orchard: 12), the number of specimens of *Anastrepha* and *C. capitata* together were expressively higher in the orchard (20,108) than in the forest (4,180) (Table 1), however it must be considered that the sampling effort (number of traps used) was greater in the orchard. The difference

in the values of these two parameters was reflected in Margalef diversity index values (forest: $\alpha = 1.078$; orchard: $\alpha = 1.111$), which were statistically different ($p = 0.005$) in both types of ecosystem, as shown by the overlapping of the confidence intervals CI (forest: CI => [0.736, 0.737]; orchard: H => [0.586; 0.586]).

The equitativity index (Table 2) was higher in forest (0.32) than in the orchard (0.23), showing that the forest abundance was more evenly distributed among species.

Table 2. Species richness and values of diversity and equitativity indexes obtained for fruit fly species captured with McPhail traps in a semideciduous forest fragment and in a commercial orchard of guava in Itaporã, MS, Brazil, from 2008 to 2009.

Parameters	Forest	Orchard
Species richness (S)	10	12
Diversity index [Margalef (α)]	1.07	1.11
Equitativity index	0.32	0.23

Discussion

Only three non-economically important fruit fly species (according to Norrbom *et al.* 2010) were recorded: *A. amita*, exclusively found in the orchard; *A. undosa*, exclusively collected in the forest; and *A. montei*, collected in both environments or sites, all of them found in very low abundances (Fig. 1).

Several factors can influence the fruit fly occurrence, including the availability of host fruits in the forest fragment during the non-fruiting period of guava in the orchard. The dominant species in both ecosystems may found climate conditions and favorable hosts for the establishment of populations. Species occurring in most of the sampled period may found, due to its polyphagia, native and exotic hosts, throughout the year.

The abundance of *Anastrepha* species captured in this study differ from other studies conducted in guava orchard using McPhail traps. In Santa Catarina State, southern Brazil, *A. fraterculus* was the dominant species (Garcia *et al.* 2003; Garcia & Lara 2006). *Anastrepha fraterculus*, *A. obliqua*, and *A. sororcula* were the most abundant of the 14 fruit fly species found in the north and northwest of Rio de Janeiro State (Aguiar-Menezes *et al.* 2008). In four municipalities of Minas Gerais State, southeast Brazil, 20 species of fruit flies were found, with *A. obliqua* being the most abundant species (Canal *et al.* 1998). In Tocantins State, northern Brazil, 19 species were identified, with *A. zenildae* and *C. capitata* as the most abundant species (Bomfim *et al.* 2007). In a study conducted in Ceará State (Moura & Moura 2006), only three fruit fly species were associated with guava, namely *A. sororcula*, *A. zenildae* and *C. capitata*, with the last species being the most abundant. Azevedo *et al.* (2010), in the same state, found *A. zenildae*, *A. sororcula*, *A. fraterculus*, *A. obliqua*, and *C. capitata* associated with guava. Among the cited species, *A. zenildae* and *A. sororcula* were dominant and constant in the studied region.

In a previous study conducted in a much larger fragment of semideciduous forest in Mato Grosso do Sul State (about 300 ha), Canesin & Uchôa (2007) obtained 14 species of Tephritidae, with *A. elegans* Blanchard considered as the dominant species. This species seems to be only associated with native vegetation, and was not recorded in the present study. The noticeable prevalence of species with agricultural importance in the forest fragment of the present study may indicate its high degree of disturbance, or insufficient size to bear native fruit fly populations.

The pattern of population distribution of the species of fruit flies in the present work differs from a previous study by Aluja (1994) concerning the number of dominant species. In that study although a large number of fruit fly species occurred, only two or three were dominant (Aluja 1994). In the present work, five super-dominant species were found in the orchard, as mentioned above.

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