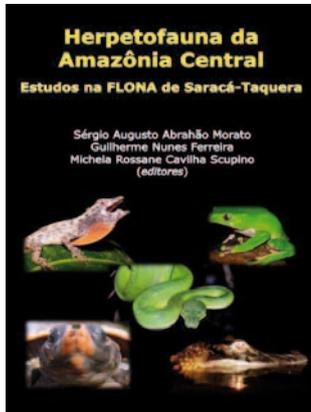


Herpetofauna da Amazônia Central-Estudos na FLONA de Saracá-Taquera (2018)

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This book on the herpetofauna of the Saracá-Taquera National Forest (FLONA Floresta Nacional: protected areas subject to sustainable exploitation regimes) is based on a series of studies by 37 researchers from several Brazilian universities. The reserve is located in the central Amazon basin of north-east Brazil, occupies a surface area of 4413

km², and has a humid tropical climate. Within its limits there are records of 52 amphibian species (48 Anura and 4 Gymnophiona) and 126 reptiles (4 Crocodylia, 13 Testudines and 109 Squamata).

The book has 7 chapters dealing with 1. Distribution and habitat of reptiles; 2. Distribution and habitat of amphibians; 3. & 4. Assessment of the impact of forestry and mining activities on the herpetofauna; 5. Study of the genetic diversity of *Podocnemis expansa* (Giant South American turtle); 6. Impact of bauxite mining on the richness and abundance of freshwater turtles; and, 7. Diversity and abundance of crocodylians in Lake Sapucaá. Each chapter provides an initial summary giving the environmental background and main conservation problems of the region. The texts are in Portuguese, but all the chapters start with a brief abstract in English and the graphics and tables are easily interpretable, even by those who do not speak Portuguese.

The first two chapters provide an exhaustive list of the amphibians and reptiles occurring in the reserve (based on bibliographical references and the authors' surveys), and describe how this diversity is structured depending on several landscape and geomorphological features. However, the enormous richness of species prevents the authors from making a detailed description of their habitat use, although additional details are provided for freshwater turtles and crocodylians in the final two chapters. The chapters are accompanied by some high-quality photos, but in order to find pictures of most species the reader should consult Morato et al. 2014. The chapters also contain maps and graphs, but lack images of the main landscape types or maps of these showing species richness by taxonomic order. Even so, the text provides novel and relevant information on the ecology of reptiles and amphibians in the reserve, with emphasis on the type of ecosystems where exploitation must be minimised in order to maintain biological diversity.

The third and fourth chapters go deeper into the subject, and discuss the effect of the destruction of primary forests on the herpetofauna, supported by abundant graphic material. The fifth chapter assesses the possible impact of disturbance by boats on the genetic diversity of *P. expansa*. It also provides new and interesting data on the metapopulation structure of this chelonian in the affluents of the Amazon river and on the factors that influence the gene-flow among subpopulations. The sixth chapter assesses the richness and local abundance of freshwater turtles. The authors found 11 species in the reserve (65% of the known species for the Amazon basin), which confirms the exceptional value of this protected area. The seventh chapter evaluates the habitat use and the status of the populations of the 4 crocodylian species in Lake Sapucaá and confirms that the Saracá-Taquera reserve maintains important populations of these species.

In summary, 'Herpetofauna da Amazônia Central-Estudos na Flona from Saracá-Taquera' is a specialised text for those interested in Amazonian herpetofauna, but also for those interested in a broad sense in the ecology of crocodylians and in the effect of anthropic activities in hyper-diverse tropical biotic communities.

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