HUNTING BEHAVIOR: THE USE OF SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO CAPTURE CINGULATA ORDER IN THE STATE OF RONDÔNIA

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RESUMO

Hunting wildlife species is one of the main ways people obtain meat throughout the Neotropics, but it also acts as one of the main drivers of local extinctions. Among the game species, we focus on the representatives of the Cingulata order, which are consumed throughout Brazil. However, we still have little information about hunting behavior andabout the knowledge that hunters have on the feeding habits and behavior of the species. This study aimed to characterize the specific armadillo hunting strategies in the Brazilian state of Rondônia. Semi-structured interviews to hunters were carried out in different municipalities, gathering information about the types of specific hunting strategies and feeding stations used for each species. One-hundred and six interviews were conducted, with 15 hunters claiming to employ specific strategies for the capture of Dasypus novemcinctus (n = 13), Dasypus beniensis (n = 11) and Priodontes maximus (n = 4), in addition to specific strategies for the order (n = 6). For the capture of D. novemcinctus, firearm trap strategies (n = 1), waiting at salt licks (n = 1), prey tracking (n = 4) and prey tracking with dog (n = 1), waiting at feeding station (bait used “tucumã” – Astrocaryum aculeatum n=1) and at a fruit tree (“mirindiba” - Buchenavia tetraphylla, “copaíba” - Copaifera langsdorffii, “buriti” - Mauritia flexuosa and “goiaba-de-anta” – Bellucia grossularioides, n = 1 each and “tucumã” n = 2) were recorded. For D. beniensis, foot sweeping (n = 1), waiting at feeding station (“tucumã” n = 1), waiting at fruit tree “(buriti”, “embira” - Xylopia sp., “copaíba”, “caucho” - Ficus sp., n = 1 each; “tucumã” n = 3) were the reported methods. In the case of P. maximus, foot sweeping (n = 1) and waiting at a fruit tree (“buriti”, “copaíba” and “tucumã”, n = 1 each) were recorded. At the order level, prey tracking (n = 1) and waiting at a fruit tree (“buriti”, “orucuri” - Syagrus coronata and “piquiá” - Caryocar villosum, n = 1 each; “tucumã” n = 2) were documented. The waiting strategy was predominant among all individual species (73.15%) and also in the general analysis (73.5%). The waiting strategy is an active hunting technique, which is partially selective in that it makes it possible to evaluate the individual before deflagate the shot, which increases the chance of capturing the targe species. The waiting at fruit trees stands out (61.8%), with no source of animal protein being used as bait. The diet of armadillos is mainly composed of arthropods, but these results may indicate that plant species are also important in their diet. “Tucumã” was the most common plant species in armadillos’ baits (44%), demonstrating its high importance in attracting and potentially feeding armadillo species. “Tucumã”, “buriti” and “copaíba” were the botanical species shared among the different armadillos. The record of the composition of the diets based on the knowledge of hunters is an important source of information, filling a knowledge gap on the feeding ecology of these species.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Dasypus, Diet, Interviews, Priodontes maximus

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