

CINGULATA OCCURRENCE IN COASTAL REGIONS OF CENTRAL SOUTHERN BRAZIL

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RESUMO

Armadillos are neotropical medium-sized mammals that occur in all Brazilian Biomes. Despite Cingulata Order's wide distribution in the country, there are gaps regarding distribution limits, locations, and habitats records of some members of the group. In that direction, the objective of this work was to identify and map the specimens of cingulates found in coastal areas (beaches) from the state of Espírito Santo in Central Brazil to the state of Santa Catarina located in the South of the country. The data for this research was obtained from the open public access of the Monitoring System of Aquatic Biota (SIMBA) and was registered by Beach Monitoring Programs conducted as conditions for environmental licensing stipulated by the General Petroleum and Gas Coordination of the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Resources – Ibama, conducted in Santos, Campos and Espírito Santo basins. A total of 2296 occurrences classified as non-target fauna at SIMBA database, registered between January 2016 and July 2020 were analyzed. Armadillos's photographic records were analyzed for the identification of the lowest possible level of taxonomy. Geographic data and relevant information related to the location were analyzed to map the occurrences' distribution. Seventy-one armadillos were found between the total of the occurrences analyzed and 286 photographic records of these animals were examined. Sixty (60) specimens were identified as *Dasypus novemcinctus*, six as *Cabassous tatouay*, two as *Dasypus septemcinctus* e three as *Dasypus* sp, due to the advanced stage of the carcass decomposition which made it impossible for the species identification. Only one *Dasypus novemcinctus* was registered alive, the other armadillos were found dead on the beach areas. *Dasypus novemcinctus* occurred in coastal regions between Espírito Santo and Santa Catarina states. *Dasypus septemcinctus* were registered in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. *Cabassous tatouay* were registered in São Paulo, Paraná and Santa Catarina coastal areas. The major occurrences of *Dasypus novemcinctus* reinforces information about the taxon being relatively easy to register, have wide distribution, and use a variety of habitats. Although *Dasypus septemcinctus* occurrences refer to only two individuals, they add information about environments used by this species, known to inhabit preferably dry areas. *Cabassous tatouay* is a rare species, currently classified as insufficient data, with a significant gap in the occurrence and type of environment used. The six records are expressive for this species and even contribute to a better understanding of its geographical distribution. From these observations, it was possible to recognize that three species of armadillo use coastal environments, *Dasypus novemcinctus*, *Dasypus septemcinctus* and *Cabassous tatouay*, reinforcing the need for further studies on the occurrence of other Cingulata' species in coastal areas and aspects related to their conservation in these ecosystems.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Armadillo, *Cabassous*, *Dasipodidae*, *Dasypus*.

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