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# AMPHIBIANS OF AN OPEN CERRADO FRAGMENT IN SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL

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## Abstract

The Cerrado encompasses ca. 2 million km<sup>2</sup> in Brazil. Most Cerrado areas have been greatly disturbed in the past decades. Only 20% of this biome remain undisturbed, and only 1.2% is protected. Knowledge on the biology and diversity of Cerrado amphibian assemblages is still incipient. Here we present natural history information (habitat use and reproductive activity) of 28 species of frogs from the Estação Ecológica de Itirapina (EEI), and compare the composition of this assemblage with those of other Cerrado areas, other open areas, and a few forest areas throughout Brazil. We demonstrate that the Itirapina assemblage is more similar to those of other open areas than to those of forests, even when the latter are geographically closer. Six species occurred in the gallery forest at varying levels of dependence (three independent, two semi-dependent, and one totally dependent) while all other species occurred exclusively in open areas. For most species at EEI, reproduction was strongly synchronized with the onset of the rainy season, with the exception of *Hypsiboas lundii*, which called throughout the year, and *Proceratophrys* sp. which started calling prior to the beginning of the rainy season. The spatial and temporal patterns observed in this assemblage seem to reflect both ecological (e. g. hydroperiod of water bodies) and historical factors (e. g. early breeding in leptodactylids, late breeding in hylids, both phylogenetically constrained).

**Key words:** *Amphibians; Habitat use; Reproduction; Cerrado; Itirapina; São Paulo; Brazil*

## Resumo

O Cerrado originalmente ocupava dois milhões km<sup>2</sup> no Brasil. Nas últimas décadas, as áreas naturais de Cerrado vêm sendo destruídas rapidamente. Somente 20% da região original permanece inalterada e apenas 1,2% encontram-se em unidades de conservação. O conhecimento sobre a biologia e a diversidade de espécies de Cerrado ainda são muito escassos. Neste trabalho, nós apresentamos informações sobre história natural (uso do ambiente e atividade reprodutiva) de 28 espécies de anfíbios da Estação Ecológica de Itirapina (EEI) e comparamos a composição das taxocenoses da EEI com aquelas de outras localidades de Cerrado, e também de áreas florestais e outras fisionomias abertas. Demonstramos que a taxocenose de Itirapina assemelha-se mais àquelas de outras formações vegetais abertas, estruturalmente mais semelhantes, do que as taxocenoses de formações florestais, mesmo que estas sejam geograficamente mais próximas. Seis espécies ocorreram nas matas de galeria em diferentes graus de dependência (três independentes, duas semi-dependentes e uma totalmente dependente) enquanto que as demais ocorreram exclusivamente nas fisionomias abertas. Para a maioria das espécies da EEI, a reprodução foi fortemente sincronizada com a estação chuvosa, com exceção de *H. lundii*, que vocalizou durante todo o ano e *Proceratophrys* sp. que iniciou as atividades de vocalização antes do início da estação chuvosa. Os padrões espacial e temporal observados nessa taxocenose parecem refletir tanto fatores ecológicos (e. g. hidroperíodo dos corpos d'água) e históricos (e. g. reprodução no início da estação reprodutiva para os leptodactídeos e tardia para os hílídeos, ambos filogeneticamente determinados).

**Palavras-chave:** *Anfíbios; Uso de ambiente; Reprodução; Cerrado; Itirapina; São Paulo; Brasil*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Cerrado is the second largest vegetational domain in Brazil, encompassing ca. 2 million km<sup>2</sup> in the northern, central, western, and southeastern regions of the country (Ratter et al. 1998). In the past decades, natural areas of Cerrado have been greatly disturbed, primarily due to extensive agriculture practice and cattle raising (Ratter et al. 1998). Presently, only 20% of this biome remains undisturbed, and only 1.2% is protected (Mittermeier et al. 2000). The Cerrado was recently ranked among the 25 most important terrestrial hotspots (Myers et al. 2000), and is possibly the most threatened tropical savanna in the world (Silva & Bates 2001). The typical landscape of the Cerrado consists of savanna-like vegetation in the well-drained interfluvies and gallery forests along streams and rivers (Ratter et al. 1998). Cerrado vegetation varies in structure and composition (Furley & Ratter 1998, Ratter et al. 1998). Five main vegetation types of Cerrado are recognized (Eiten 1972, Ratter et al. 1998): *cerradão* (forest-like savanna), *cerrado sensu stricto* (woody savanna), *campo cerrado* (shrubby grassland with trees), *campo sujo* (shrubby grassland), and *campo limpo* (grassland).

In 1992, only 2% of the Cerrado areas in São Paulo State, southeastern Brazil, were represented by grasslands (Kronka et al. 1998). Presently, very few remnants of these open formations are protected. Thus, studies that provide information on the native fauna and flora of open Cerrado formations are of great importance for conservation management and implementation (see Silva & Bates 2001).

Knowledge on the Cerrado anuran fauna is extremely limited, and most studies were conducted in central and northern Brazil (Moreira & Barreto 1996, Martins 1998, Strüßmann 2000, Bastos et al. 2003; for a review see Colli et al. 2002). The anuran fauna of the southern regions of the Cerrado is virtually unknown, with the exception of two studies on the herpetofauna of high elevation (> 1500 m) Cerrado areas in central and southern Minas Gerais (Serra do Cipó, Eterovick & Sazima 2004; and Serra da Canastra, Haddad et al. 1988); furthermore, these areas also include *campos rupestres* (a shrubby vegetation that grows on rocky fields), which harbors several endemic species of plants and animals.

Here we present natural history information (habitat use and reproductive activity) on 28 species of frogs from the Estação Ecológica de Itirapina (EEI), one of the few remnants of protected grasslands in the State of São Paulo. We also compare the composition of this assemblage with those of other Cerrado sites, two Caatinga (dry, predominantly xerophitic open vegetation), and four forest areas throughout Brazil. We demonstrate that the Itirapina assemblage is more similar to those of other open areas than to those of forests, even when the latter are geographically closer to the EEI.

## 2. STUDY AREA

The Estação Ecológica de Itirapina (ca. 2300 ha) is located in the municipalities of Itirapina and Brotas (Fig. 1; 22°00' to 22°15' S; 47°45' to 48°00' W; elevation 720-750 m). The reserve is covered by well preserved, natural Cerrado vegetation, mainly *campo limpo* (grasslands), *campo sujo* (grasslands with scattered shrubs), *campo cerrado* (grasslands with scattered shrubs and trees), gallery forests, and marshes (Figs. 2 and 3). The soil of the drier interfluvies (with grasslands) is primarily composed of sand (over 85%); soils in wetter areas contain 60-70% of clay or silt. There are two types of gallery forests in the reserve (Fig. 2): the gallery forest along Lobo stream floods on rare occasions and its soil contains more silt and coarse sand, whereas the gallery forest along Capão stream is flooded throughout the rainy season and the soil contains more clay and fine sand (hydromorphic). Amphibians breed in both permanent and temporary ponds in the EEI and also utilize puddles, streams, swamps, marshes, and large dams as breeding sites (Fig. 4).

The climate is mesothermic with a marked dry season (Fig. 5). In the period from 1998 to 2002, mean monthly rainfall in the dry season (April to September) was 44.2 mm (0 to 122 mm each month) and 191.2 mm during the wet season (October to March; 29 to 452 mm each month). From April 1998 to March 2002, the minimum temperature ranged from 0 to 11 °C during the dry season, and from 9 to 18 °C during the wet season; the maximum temperature ranged from 28 to 36 °C in the dry season, and from 33 to 39 °C during the wet season (Fig. 5). Occasional frosts occurred in winter, usually in June and July.

## 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

We surveyed the anurans of EEI from September 1998 to March 2002 using three primary methods: pitfall traps with drift fences (*sensu* Greenberg et al. 1994, Cechin & Martins 1999), visual and audio surveys (Heyer et al. 1994), and incidental encounters. All bufonids, leptodactylids, and microhylids were captured or observed using all sampling methods, and hylids were captured using all methods but pitfall traps. Voucher specimens were deposited in the Museu de História Natural da Universidade Estadual de Campinas (ZUEC) and Coleção de Anfíbios da Universidade Estadual Paulista, Rio Claro (CFBH).

In the species accounts, we provided the approximate snout-vent length (SVL, mm) of adult males and females together, unless stated otherwise. We considered rare those species for which we found less than 50 individuals throughout the study, and abundant those for which we found 50 or more individuals during the same period.

We compared the composition of the EEI assemblage with those of five Cerrado sites (Ilha de Maracá, northern Brazil, Martins 1998; Serra da Canastra, southern Brazil, Haddad



Figure 1 – Map of Brazil with Estação Ecológica de Itirapina (22° 00' and 22° 15' S and 47° 45' and 48° 00' W), municipalities of Itirapina and Brotas, São Paulo State.



Figure 2 – Aerial photograph showing Estação Ecológica de Itirapina taken in 2002. White line = limits of Estação. Physiognomies: CS = cerrado senso stricto; CCE = campo cerrado (yellow line); CS = campo sujo; CL = campo limpo; AA = swamps; GFC = gallery forest along Capão stream; GFL = gallery forest along Lobo stream. GA, GB, GC = pitfall traps in gallery forest; SA, SB, SC = pitfall traps in campo sujo; CA, CB, CC = pitfall traps in campo cerrado.



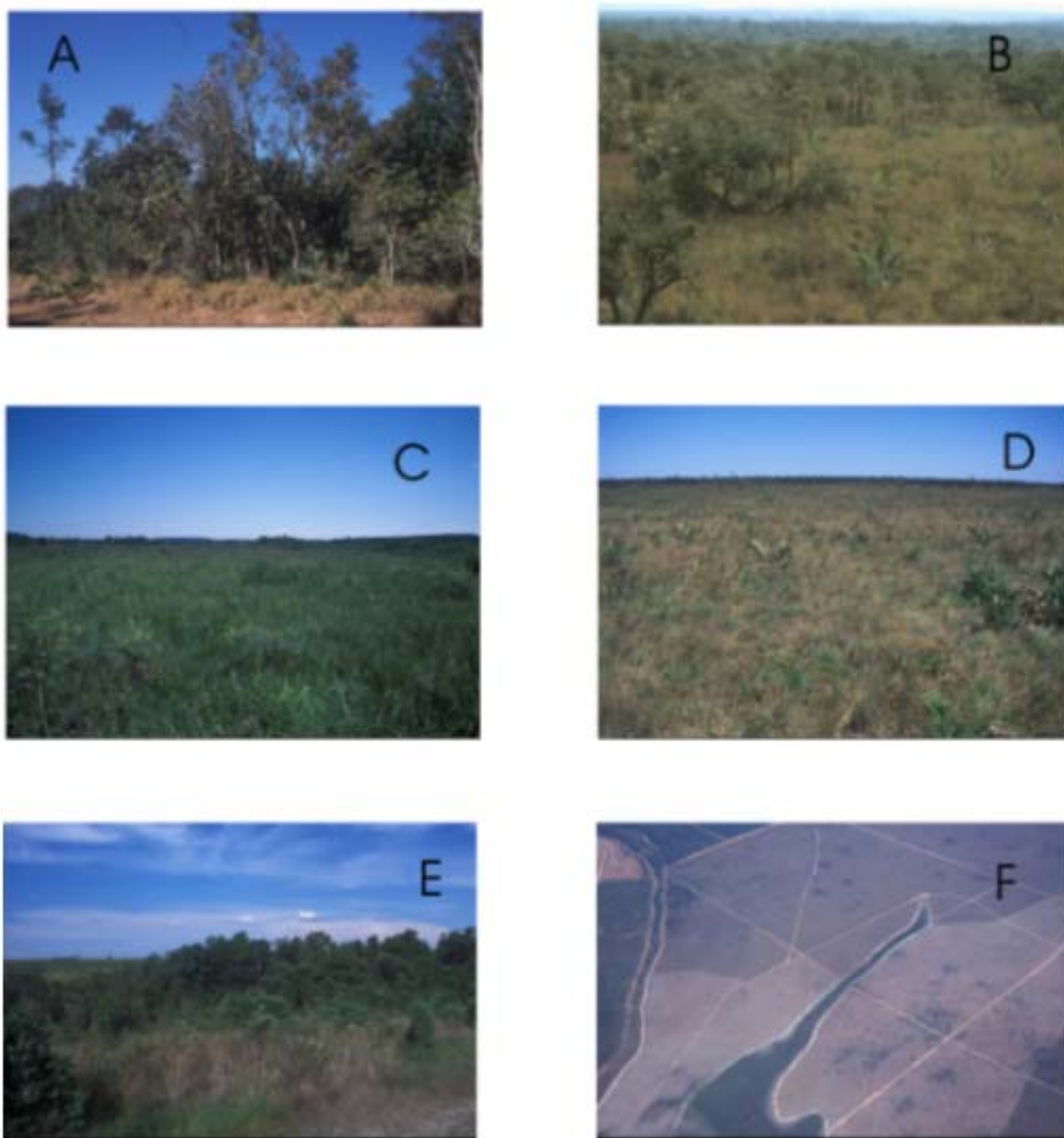


Figure 3 – Physiognomies of Estação Ecológica de Itirapina. **A** - Cerrado senso stricto, **B** - Campo Cerrado, **C** - Campo Limpo; **D** - Campo Sujo, **E** – Swampy areas near gallery Forest; **F** – Gallery Forest.

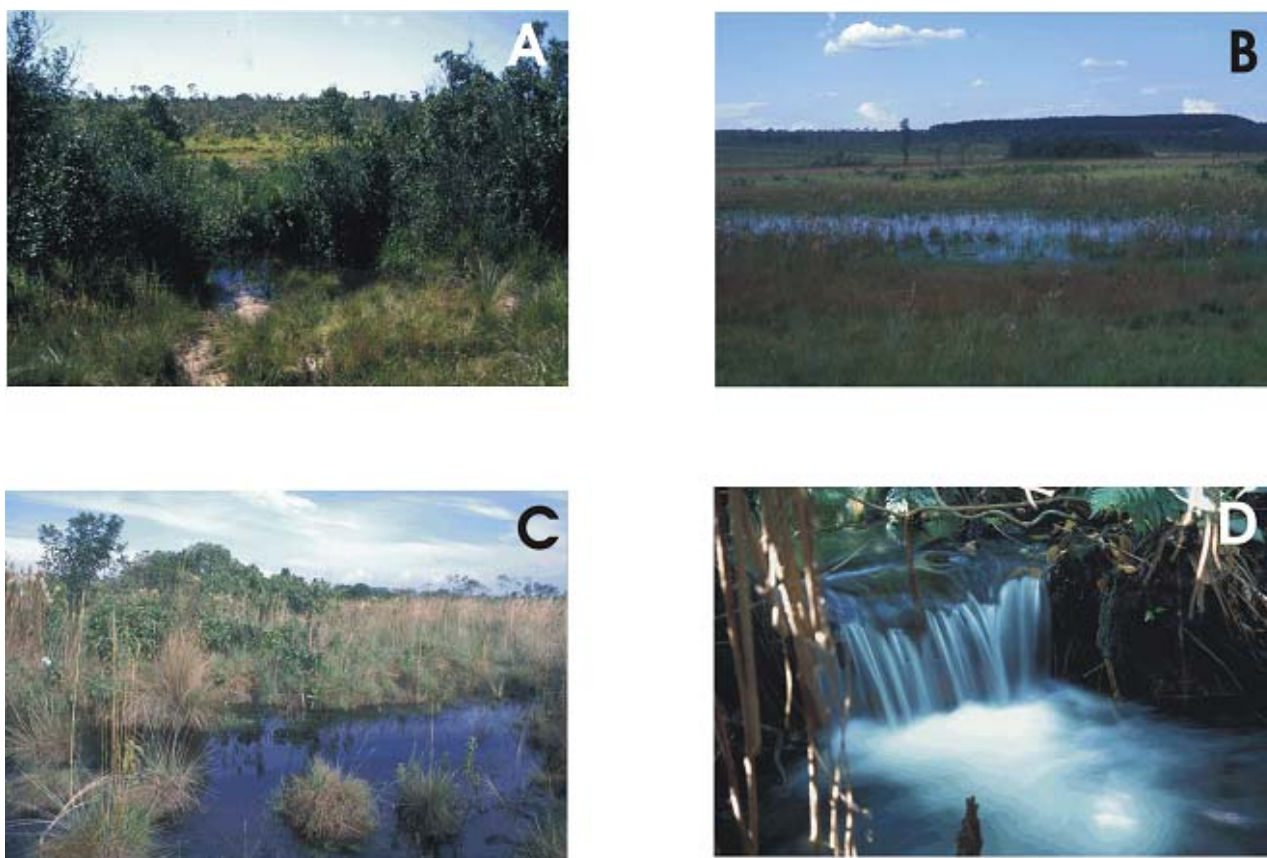


Figure 4 – Some sampled habitats in Estação Ecológica de Itirapina. A- Permanent pond,; B - Temporary pond, Photo: Marcio Martins; C- Temporary pond ; D- Permanent stream, Photos:. (Pictures by Marcio Martins (A and B), Alexandro Tozetti (C), and Ivan Sazima (D).

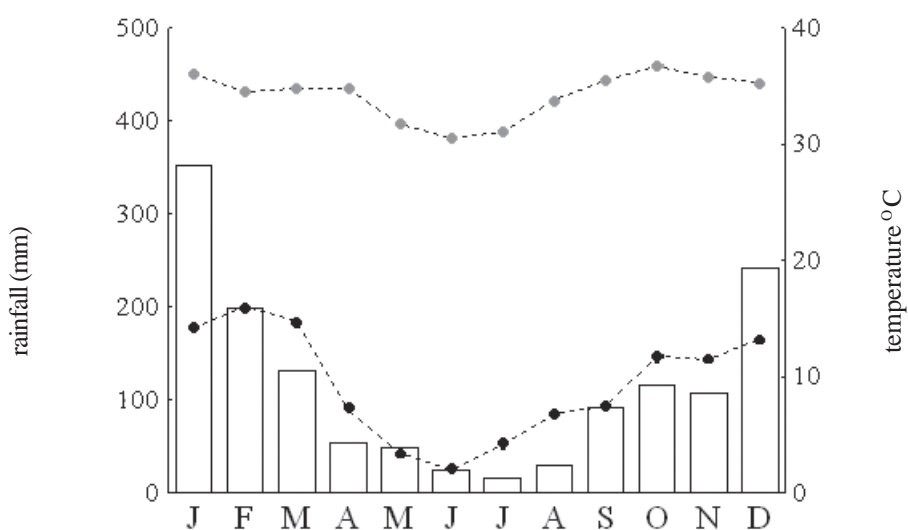


Figure 5 - Mean monthly rainfall (mm; bars), and mean minimum and maximum monthly temperatures (°C; lines) from April 1998 to March 2002 at Estação Ecológica de Itirapina.

Family/Species	Physiognomy	Breeding Site	Breeding period
<b>Bufonidae</b>			
<i>Bufo ornatus</i>	GF,SA	-	-
<i>B. schneideri</i>	CS,CL,SA	PP,TP	-
<b>Hylidae</b>			
<i>Dendropsophus jimi</i>	SA	SW,PP,TP	Sep - Jan
<i>Dendropsophus minutus</i>		SW,PP,TP	Oct - Jan
<i>Dendropsophus nanus</i>	SA	SW,PP	Sep - Jan
<i>Dendropsophus sanborni</i>	SA	SW,PP	Sep - Jan
<i>Hypsiboas albopunctatus</i>	GF *	PP,SW	Sep - Mar
<i>Hypsiboas lundii</i>	GF	S	Sep - May **
<i>Hypsiboas faber</i>	-	PP	-
<i>Osteocephalus langsdorffi</i>	GF	S	-
<i>Scinax cf. berthae</i>	CS,CL,SA,GF	TP,PP,SW	Oct - Jan
<i>Scinax fuscomarginatus</i>	CC,CS,CL	SW,PP,TP	Jan - Apr
<i>Scinax fuscovarius</i>	CC,CS,CL	SW,TP,PP,P	Oct - Mar
<i>Scinax squalirostris</i>	CS,CL,SA	TP,PP	Oct - Jan
<i>Scinax cf. similis</i>	CS,CL,SA	TP,PP,P	Sep - Mar
<b>Leptodactylidae</b>			
<i>Leptodactylus furnarius</i>	CC,CS,SA	TP	Dec - Mar
<i>Leptodactylus fuscus</i>	SG,CS,CC	TP,SW	Sep - Feb
<i>Leptodactylus jolyi</i>	CL,CS	SW	-
<i>Leptodactylus labyrinthicus</i>	CC,CS,CL	PP,LT,SW	Oct - Mar
<i>Leptodactylus mystacinus</i>	CS,CC,CL,SA	TP,PP,SW	Oct - Jan
<i>Leptodactylus cf. ocellatus</i>	CS,CL,SA	TP,PP	Oct - Mar
<i>Physalaemus centralis</i>	CS,CL	TP,P	Oct - Jan
<i>Physalaemus cuvieri</i>	CC,CS,CL,AS,GF	TP,PP	Sep - Mar
<i>Physalaemus fuscomaculatus</i>	CC,CS,CL	TP,P	Sep - Jan
<i>Physalaemus nattereri</i>	CS,CL, CC	TP,P	Sep - Jan
<i>Proceratophrys</i> sp.	CS,GF	S	Oct - Mar
<b>Microhylidae</b>			
<i>Chiasmocleis albopunctata</i>	CC,CS,CL	TP,P	Nov - Feb
<i>Elachistocleis ovalis</i>	CC,CS,CL,SA	TP,PP,SW,P	Dec - Apr

\* Mainly in edge gallery forest. - \*\* In June, July and August, individuals sporadically call.

Table 1 – Physiognomies of occurrence, breeding site and calling period for each species recorded in Estação Ecológica de Itirapina, from September 1998 to March 2002. Physiognomies: SA, swamp areas CC, campo cerrado; CL, campo limpo; CS, campo sujo; and G, Gallery Forest. Breeding Sites: SW, swamps; TP, temporary pond; PP, permanent pond; P, puddles; and S, stream.

et al. 1988; Rio Manso, Strüssman 2001; Silvânia, Bastos et al. 2003; and Água Emendadas, Brandão & Araújo 1998, all three located in central Brazil), two Caatinga sites (Maturéia and São José do Bonfim, northeastern Brazil, Arzabe 1999), and four forest sites (Manaus, Amazonian forest, northern Brazil, M. Martins unpublished data; Guaraqueçaba, L. M. Castanho unpublished data, Atlantic forest, southeastern Brazil; Intervales, Bertolucci 2001, Atlantic forest, southeastern Brazil; and Ubatuba, C. F. B. Haddad and M. Hartmann, unpublished data, Atlantic forest, southeastern Brazil). For this comparison we used the Sorensen similarity index (Wolda 1981) and the clustering method WPGMA (Sneath & Sokal 1973), with the software MVSP (Kovach 1999). We use World Wildlife Fund's ecoregions (e. g., Dinerstein et al. 2000) to refer to Brazilian ecosystems.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 SPECIES ACCOUNTS

We recorded 28 species in ten genera and four families at Estação Ecológica de Itirapina (Table 1). The information on each species is detailed below.

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#### Bufonidae

##### *Bufo ornatus*

This moderate-sized toad (SVL males  $\bar{x}$  = 54.4, SD = 15.7 mm, N = 21; Fig. 6) was a rare species at EEI. No calls were heard at the station, although adults and juveniles were observed and captured in pitfall traps close to the Lobo stream gallery forest during the rainy season. Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12009-10.

##### *Bufo schneideri*

This large toad (SVL males = 136.2, SD = 11.1 mm; N = 6; SVL females = 168.7, SD = 3.8 mm, N = 4; Fig. 7) was a rare species at EEI. It is an explosive breeder, frequently encountered at the end of the dry season, and early in the rainy season. It was captured mostly in pitfall traps near gallery forests (mainly along Lobo stream), but occasionally observed in *campo sujo*. It called for a few nights along the margins of large dam along the borders of the reserve during the onset of the rainy season. Additional information on the biology of *B. schneideri* was provided by Moreira & Barreto (1997), Brandão & Araújo (1998), and Toledo et al. (2003). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12012.

#### Hylidae

##### *Dendropsophus jimi*

This small treefrog (SVL males = 19.1, SD = 0.4 mm; N = 6; Fig. 8) was very abundant in swampy areas and temporary ponds at EEI. Males called on grasses of these ponds throughout the rainy season; calling sites were 40 to 120 cm above the ground. Some males were observed using the same calling site over multiple nights. Tadpoles were found in temporary ponds. Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12047.

##### *Dendropsophus minutus*

This small treefrog (SVL males = 21.0, SD = 0.9 mm; N = 8; Fig. 9) was very common in swampy areas and temporary ponds throughout the reserve. Males called on the vegetation (usually grasses and shrubs) from 30 to 80 cm above ground, throughout the rainy season. Tadpoles were common in these ephemeral water bodies. Additional information on the biology of *D. minutus* was provided by Cardoso & Haddad (1984) and Eterovick & Sazima (2004). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12042-43.

##### *Dendropsophus nanus*

This diminutive treefrog (SVL males = 20.4, SD = 0.8 mm; N = 10) was common in large flooded areas. Males called on grasses and shrubs from 10 to 40 cm above ground throughout the rainy season. Additional information on its biology was provided by Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001) and Toledo et al. (2003). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12041.

##### *Dendropsophus sanborni*

A diminutive treefrog (SVL males = 17.3, SD = 1.4 mm; N = 6; Fig. 10) frequently encountered in swamps, large flooded areas, and ponds. Males called from the vegetation 30 to 60 cm above ground throughout the rainy season. Additional information on its biology was provided by Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001) and Toledo et al. (2003). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12039-40.

##### *Hypsiboas albopunctatus*

This moderate-sized treefrog (SVL males = 53.1, SD = 7.2 mm; N = 6; Fig. 11) was very abundant in permanent or long lasting ponds and swampy areas around both gallery forests. It called from low branches of shrubs and low trees, and was found mostly from 30 to 100 cm above ground. Calling activity occurred throughout the rainy season, but peaked at the end of the season. Tadpoles were found in permanent ponds. Additional information on the biology of *H. albopunctatus* was provided by Moreira & Barreto (1997) and Toledo et al. (2003). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12013-14.





Figure 6 - *Bufo ornatus*  
Bufonidae. Photo: Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figure 7 - *Bufo schneideri*  
Bufonidae. Photo: Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figure 8 - *Dendropsophus jimi*  
Hylidae. Photo: Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figura 9 - *Dendropsophus minutus*  
Hylidae. Photo: Alexandro Tozetti



Figura 10 - *Dendropsophus sanborni*  
Hylidae. Photo: Ivan Sazima



Figure 11 - *Hypsiboas albopunctatus*  
Hylidae. Photo: Alexandro Tozetti



Figure 12 - *Hypsiboas faber*  
Hylidae. Photo Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figure 13 - *Hypsiboas lundii*  
Hylidae. Photo: Alexandro Tozetti





Figure 14 - *Osteocephalus lagsdorfii*  
Hylidae. Photo: Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figure 15 - *Scinax cf. berthae*  
Hylidae. Photo: Marcio Martins



Figure 16 - *Scinax fuscomarginatus*  
Hylidae. Photo: Luis Felipe Toledo



Figure 17 - *Scinax fuscovarius*  
Hylidae. Photo: Marcio Martins



Figure 18 - *Scinax cf. similis*  
Hylidae. Photo: Marcio Martins



Figure 19 - *Scinax squalirostris*  
Hylidae. Photo: Marcio Martins



Figure 20- *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figure 21 - *Leptodactylus furnarius*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figure 22 - *Leptodactylus fuscus*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Marcio Martins



Figure 23 - *Leptodactylus jolyi*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Ivan Sazima



Figure 24 - *Leptodactylus mystacinus*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Alexandro Tozetti



Figure 25 - *Leptodactylus cf. ocellatus*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Alexandro Tozetti



Figure 26 - *Physalaemus centralis*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Ricardo J. Sawaya



Figure 27 - *Physalaemus cuvieri*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Alexandro Tozetti



Figure 28 - *Physalameus fuscomaculatus*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Marcio Martins



Figure 29 - *Physalameus nattereri*  
Leptodactylidae. Photo: Ivan Sazima





Figure 30 - *Proceratophrys* spn  
Leptodactylidae Photo: Alexandro Tozetti



Figure 31 - *Proceratophrys* spn  
Leptodactylidae - Amplexant  
Photo: Alexandro Tozetti



Figure 32 - *Chiasmocleis albopunctata*  
Microhylidae. Photo: Marcio Martins



Figure 33 - *Elachistocleis ovalis*  
Microhylidae. Photo: Ivan Sazima

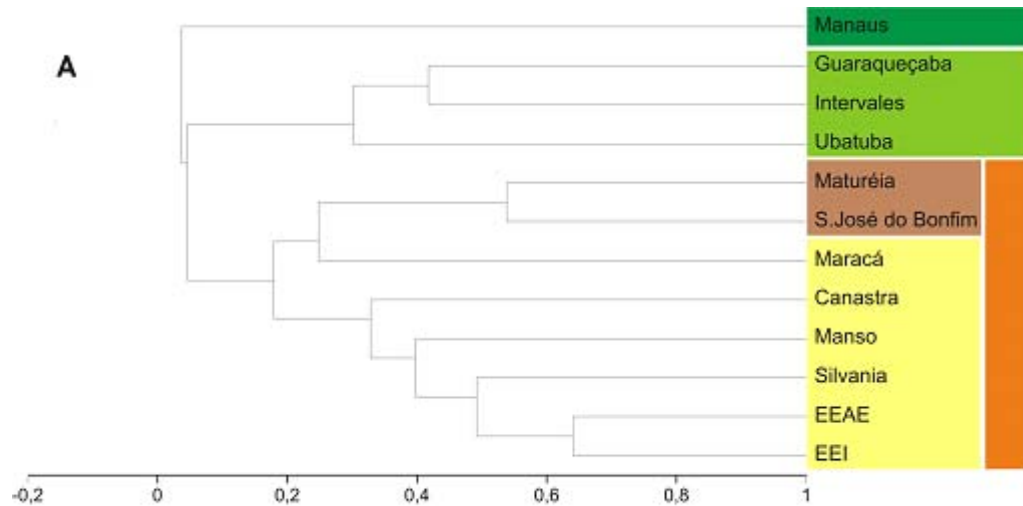


Figure 34- A – Dendrogram for the cluster analysis of seven amphibian assemblages in open areas and five in forest areas: Amazônia Central, Manaus (AM); Cerrado de Manso (MT); Estação Ecológica de Águas Emendadas (EEAE, DF); Estação Ecológica de Itirapina (SP), Guaraqueçaba (PR); Ilha de Maracá (RR); Intervalles (SP); Serra da Canastra (MG); Ubatuba (SP), São José do Bonfim (PB) and Maturéia (PB). Coefficient of Sorensen and cluster analysis “WPGMA”.



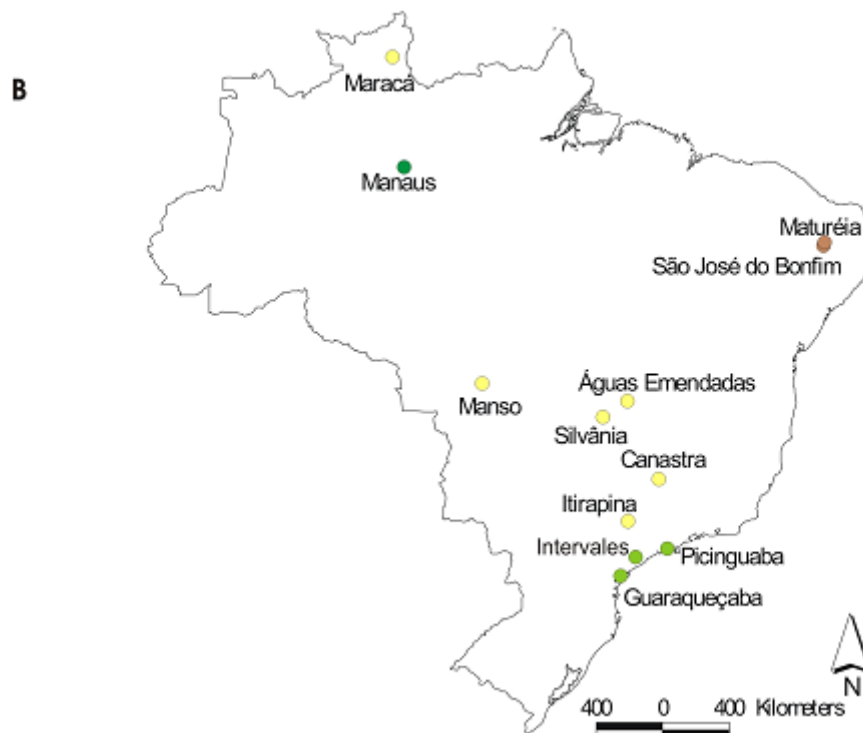


Figure 34 -B - Map of selected areas: Yellow = Cerrado; Brown = Caatinga; Olive Green = Atlantic Forest; e Dark Green = Amazonian forest.

#### *Hypsiboas faber*

A single adult of this large species (SVL =  $87.3 \pm 5.4$  mm; N = 5; Fig. 12) was heard on the border of the reserve, in a disturbed area of *campo limpo*. This species is common in permanent ponds outside the reserve. Additional information on its biology was provided by Martins & Haddad (1988), Martins (1993a, b), and Martins et al. (1993, 1998). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12024.

#### *Hypsiboas lundii*

This large species (SVL males = 65.4, SD = 1.0 mm; N = 3; Fig. 13) was found only along the gallery forest of Capão stream, where up to 13 males could be heard in a single night. Males called from the vegetation, from 1.5 to 10.0 m above the ground (approximately the height of the canopy), throughout the rainy season and occasionally in the dry season. Juveniles were also found in gallery forests. Additional information on the biology of *H. lundii* was provided by Eterovick & Sazima (2004). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12034-35.

#### *Osteocephalus langsdorffii*

A single individual (adult female) of this large treefrog (Fig. 14) was captured in the gallery forest of Lobo stream. The call was never heard inside the reserve. However, we found a large breeding population in a flooded area along a stream outside the reserve (cf. Almeida & Nunes 1999). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12025.

#### *Scinax cf. berthae*

This small treefrog (SVL males = 18.4, SD = 1.5 mm; N = 6, Fig. 15) was found in swampy areas and at the edge of gallery forests. Males called from the beginning to the middle of the rainy season. Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12044.

#### *Scinax fuscomarginatus*

This small treefrog (SVL males =  $20.1 \pm 1.4$  mm; N = 5, Fig. 16) was relatively common in swampy areas and temporary ponds throughout the reserve. Males called from the middle to the end of the rainy season. Calling

sites were up to 30 cm above the ground. Additional information on its biology was provided by Moreira & Barreto (1997) and Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12037-38.

#### *Scinax fuscovarius*

This moderate-sized treefrog (SVL males = 43.3, SD = 2.4 mm; N = 6; Fig. 17) was very abundant in swampy areas, temporary ponds, and on the edge of gallery forests. It was found in all vegetation types. Males called on the ground or from vegetation 10 to 40 cm above the ground. Calling activity occurred throughout the rainy season. Additional information on the biology of *S. fuscovarius* was provided by Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001) and Eterovik & Sazima (2004). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12046.

#### *Scinax cf. similis*

This moderate-sized treefrog (SVL males = 39.0, SD = 2.1 mm; N = 197; SVL females = 36.7, SD = 2.7 mm; N = 120; Fig. 18) was commonly found in temporary ponds throughout the reserve; males called throughout the rainy season, with peaks of activity after heavy rains. Males called from vegetation 10 to 50 cm above ground. Thousands of amplexant pairs were observed in one night in a single pond in December 2001. Information on the biology of *Scinax similis* was provided by Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12045.

#### *Scinax squalirostris*

This small treefrog (SVL males  $x = 21.1$ , SD = 2.0 mm; N = 5; Fig. 19) was a common species in some temporary ponds at EEI. Males called during the beginning of the rainy season, mainly on grass tufts about 50 cm above the ground. Additional information on its biology was provided by Eterovick & Sazima (2004). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12036.

### Leptodactylidae

#### *Leptodactylus furnarius*

This moderate-sized frog (SVL males = 34.6, SD = 3.2 mm; N = 28; SVL females = 37.6, SD = 4.3 mm; N = 24; Fig. 21) was captured in pitfall traps in all vegetation types, although it was more abundant in swampy areas along gallery forests. It calls in the middle of the rainy season and digs burrows in the drier areas of temporary ponds and swamps, where foam nests were deposited. Additional information on the biology of *L. furnarius* was provided by Giaretta & Kokobum (2003) and Eterovick & Sazima (2004). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12028.

#### *Leptodactylus fuscus*

This moderate-sized frog (SVL males = 47.2, SD = 4.8 mm; N = 35; SVL females = 56.4, SD = 4.8 mm; N = 22; Fig. 22) was common in all vegetation types and was observed or captured by all methods. Calling adults and dug-out burrows (where foam nests were deposited) were found in the drier surroundings of temporary ponds at the beginning and during the middle of the rainy season. This species was not found during the dry season. Additional information on the biology of *L. fuscus* was provided by Martins (1988), Rossa-Feres et al. (1999), and Freitas et al. (2001). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12021.

#### *Leptodactylus jolyi*

This moderate-sized frog (SVL males = 45.0, SD = 1.3 mm; N = 6; Fig. 23) was registered in swampy areas near temporary ponds in *campo limpo*. Males generally called from sheltered places (base of grass tufts) at the beginning of and middle of the rainy season. Additional information on its biology was provided by Eterovick & Sazima (2004). Voucher specimen: CFBH6514.

#### *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus*

During the rainy season, males and females of this large frog (SVL males = 150.8, SD = 26.5 mm; N = 6; SVL females = 138.1, SD = 7.2 mm; N = 3; Fig. 20) were common in all vegetation types, in swamps close to gallery forests, and in large temporary ponds in areas of *campo limpo* and *campo sujo*. Males always called at ground level. Foam nests and tadpoles were abundant in water-filled mammal burrows and natural depressions on the ground. Females were frequently observed caring for their clutches. During the dry season, adults forage at night in *campo sujo*, and hide in mammal burrows during the day and night. Frogs of all stages post-metamorphosis (from froglets to large adults) were frequently captured in pitfall traps in gallery forest, and less frequently in *campo sujo*. Tadpoles and juveniles were common in and around swamps and ponds. Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12026-27.

#### *Leptodactylus mystacinus*

This moderate-sized frog (SVL males = 47.2 mm  $\pm$  4.8 mm; N = 35; SVL females = 56.4, SD = 4.8 mm; N = 22; Fig. 24) was captured in pitfall traps in all vegetation types, although it was found mainly in *campo cerrado*. Overall abundance is low at EEI (compared to *L. fuscus* and *L. furnarius*). Dug-out burrows (where foam nests were deposited) and calling adults were found at the beginning and throughout the middle of the rainy season, in the drier regions of temporary ponds and swamps (e.g. Lucas, 2004). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12015.

*Leptodactylus cf. ocellatus*

This large frog (SVL males = 71.1, SD = 13.8 mm; N = 3; Fig. 25) was rare at EEI, found only around ponds and swamps along gallery forests. On one occasion, a school of tadpoles guarded by a female was found in a large temporary pond. Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12029.

*Physalaemus centralis*

This moderate-size frog (SVL males = 31.1, SD = 3.8 mm; N = 5; Fig. 26) was rare, although it was found in all vegetation types. Calling males, egg clutches, and tadpoles were found at the beginning and throughout the middle of the rainy season in temporary ponds and swamps (CAB, unpubl. data). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12018-19.

*Physalaemus cuvieri*

This small frog (SVL males = 27.6, SD = 3.0 mm; N = 525; SVL females = 29.5, SD = 2.7 mm; N = 680; Fig. 27) was the most abundant leptodactylid at EEI; it was captured in pitfall traps in all vegetation types. Males generally called from sheltered places (base of grass tufts) in temporary ponds throughout the rainy season. Males also called from small puddles after heavy rains. Tadpoles and juveniles were very commonly found in and around temporary ponds. Additional information on the biology of *P. cuvieri* was provided by Bokermann (1962), Cardoso (1981), and Barreto & Andrade (1995). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12020.

*Physalaemus fuscomaculatus*

This moderate-size frog (SVL males = 32.8, SD = 3.8 mm; N = 20; SVL females = 37.8, SD = 4.4 mm; N = 23; Fig. 28) was very abundant at EEI. It was commonly captured in pitfall traps from all habitats sampled, except along gallery forests. It called in all types of temporary water bodies after heavy rains during both the dry and wet season. Generally males called floating in small sheltered puddles (Fig. 27). Amplectant pairs were found from 21:00 to 22:00h (N = 8) and egg laying (in foam nests) was observed at approximately 02:00h (N = 6). Tadpoles were commonly found in temporary water bodies. Additional information on the biology of *P. fuscomaculatus* was provided by Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001) and Giaretta & Menin (2003). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12016-17.

*Physalaemus nattereri*

This moderate-sized species (SVL males = 37.8, SD = 4.5 mm; N = 51; SVL females = 43.0, SD = 6.3 mm = 7; Fig. 29) was relatively rare at EEI. It was captured in pitfall traps in all habitats with the exception of gallery forest. Males called after heavy rains throughout the rainy season from various types of temporary water bodies. Generally males called float-

ing in small sheltered puddles. Amplectant pairs were observed at approximately 22:00h (N = 6), and eggs were deposited after 2:00h (N = 5). Additional information on the biology of *P. nattereri* was provided by Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001). Voucher specimens: ZUEC 12022-23.

*Proceratophrys* sp.

This moderated frog (SVL males = 28.0, SD = 3.1 mm, N = 65; SVL females = 36.6, SD = 4.9 mm; N = 75; Fig. 30 e 31) was abundant at EEI. It was found in the gallery forest of Capão stream and in *campo sujo*. It called mainly after heavy rains throughout the rainy season. Males called during daytime. Voucher specimen: ZUEC 13021

Microhylidae

*Chiasmocleis albopunctata*

Although rarely captured by pitfall traps, this diminutive frog (SVL males = 25.3, SD = 2.1 mm; N = 6; SVL females = 29.1, SD = 3.2 mm; N = 12; Fig. 32) was found in all vegetation types. Large aggregations of calling males were found in temporary ponds and small puddles after heavy rains, throughout the rainy season. Males called in a somewhat vertical posture, with the upper half of the body inside the water (Fig. 31). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12032.

*Elachistocleis cf. ovalis*

This small frog (SVL males = 28.1 mm, SD = 3.2 mm; N = 29; SVL females = 33.9 mm, SD = 4.7 mm; N = 30; Fig. 33) was commonly captured by pitfall traps throughout the reserve. Males called from temporary ponds and swamps from the middle to the end of the rainy season. Males generally called from sheltered sites at ground level. Some amplectant pairs were observed laying eggs in temporary ponds at approximately 23:00h. Additional information on the biology of *Elachistocleis cf. ovalis* was provided by Rossa-Feres & Jim (2001) and Eterovick & Sazima (2004). Voucher specimen: ZUEC 12031.

## 4.2 HABITAT USE

Among the anuran species observed at EEI (28 spp.), only six were found in gallery forests (Fig. 3): *B. ornatus*, *H. albopunctatus*, *H. lundii*, *Scinax cf. berthae*, *Physalaemus cuvieri* and *Proceratophrys* sp). The level of dependence on gallery forests varies among those six species. The range of dependence level was divided into three categories: 1) totally dependent, 2) semi-dependent, and 3) incidental (e.g., Silva & Bates 1995; Brandão & Araújo 2000).

Only one species, *H. lundii*, could be considered as totally dependent of gallery forests. This species uses gallery forests during all phases of its life cycle (eggs, tadpoles, metamorphs, and adults). The exclusive occurrence



of *H. lundii* in gallery forests was also observed in central Brazil (Brandão & Araújo 1998, 2000, Colli et al. 2002, Bastos et al. 2003).

*Proceratophrys* sp. was considered semi-dependent of gallery forests. Although its tadpoles develop in gallery forests, adults are found in campo sujo areas surrounding these forests. Many amplexant pairs of this species were found in pitfall traps located at the border of these forests. These frogs were probably moving to gallery forests for oviposition. *Bufo ornatus* had never been observed to breed in gallery forests, although adults and froglets were found in these forests at EEI, indicating that this species may breed in this habitat; if this is true, it would be considered semi-dependent of gallery forests.

Three species which breed in both gallery and open habitats were classified as incidental of gallery forests: *H. albopunctatus*, *Scinax* cf. *berthae*, and *P. curvieri*. Calling males of *H. albopunctatus* were found inside or near gallery forests around permanent ponds. Both *Scinax* cf. *berthae* and *P. curvieri* were incidentally found breeding in gallery forests.

In the EEI, *Proceratophrys* sp. and *H. lundii* were found only in the gallery forest that does not flood during the rainy season. On the other hand, *B. ornatus* was recorded only in the floodable gallery forest. *Hypsiboas albopunctatus* was found in both types of gallery forest.

The remainder species occurred in all types of open vegetation. Anurans at EEI utilized various types of breeding sites (Table 1). Most hylids (12 of 14 species, 91.6%) bred in lentic habitats (e. g. temporary and permanent ponds, and swamps). Only *H. lundii* used streams in gallery forests for reproduction. On a single occasion, males of *Scinax* cf. *berthae* were found calling near streams.

Most leptodactylids used temporary ponds and puddles for reproduction, with the exception of *Proceratophrys* sp. which bred in streams. *Leptodactylus furnarius* preferred swampy areas, whereas the other species in the *fuscus* group (*L. fuscus* and *L. mystacinus*) used primarily shallow temporary ponds. Most *Physalaemus* species bred in ponds and temporary puddles. However, *P. curvieri* used all habitat types for reproduction. Both species of microhylids used temporary and permanent ponds, temporary puddles, and swamps for reproduction. *Bufo ornatus* was found near streams, and *B. schneideri* near ponds and puddles.

Most species at EEI were habitat generalists. Possible this is an adaptation to unstable and unpredictable ephemeral habitats (Levins 1968) which show intense variation in hydroperiod. The ability to use many breeding habitats may facilitate the colonization of new areas (Rossa-Feres, 1994). Most species found in pristine habitats in the EEI are also found in the anthropogenic water bodies in the surroundings of the reserve, despite the generally small size

of those water bodies and the presence of exotic and invasive plant species (*Bracchiaria* and *Pinnus*) in and around the water bodies.

### 4.3 REPRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY

All species presented predominantly nocturnal calling activity. Some species, as *Proceratophrys* sp. and *L. fuscus*, called also in the morning (up to 9:00h), and in the afternoon (after 15:00h). Most species also called during daytime when sunlight was blocked by dark thunderstorm clouds.

The Itirapina-Brotas region experiences marked dry and wet seasons, consistent with other Cerrado areas. The only permanent water bodies during the dry season were the streams inside gallery forests and a few permanent ponds associated with those streams. However, only a few species bred in these permanent ponds and in the streams to which they were associated. Since most species in the Itirapina-Brotas region bred in temporary ponds and puddles, the reproductive period is always limited to the rainy season (October to March, Table 1, except for *H. lundii*, which seems to breed throughout the year), when these water bodies are formed. Furthermore, the beginning of anuran reproductive season for many species was driven by the onset of the wet season.

We detected a taxon-specific pattern for vocalization and breeding activity at EEI. In general, leptodactylids vocalized in the first half of the rainy season (onset to middle) while hylids and microhylids called during the second half of the rainy season (middle to end). This pattern was also observed in other studies on anurans breeding in ephemeral habitats; it seems to reflect the reproductive strategy for each group, which could be related to phylogenetic constraints. Leptodactylid eggs frequently develop in foam nests on water surface or inside dug-out burrows; tadpoles develop rapidly in the foam nest, which offer protection from dehydration. These two characteristics allow reproduction at the beginning of the raining season, when water availability is limited and more unpredictable. In contrast, the gelatinous eggs of hylids and microhylids in the EEI are deposited underwater or on the water surface. For these species, tadpole development is slower and dependent on water availability. On most years, this condition occurs only around the middle of the rainy season.

### 4.4 COMPARISON WITH OTHER FROG ASSEMBLAGES

Considering species composition, the frog assemblage of EEI is more similar to those of other Cerrado areas and other open ecosystems (e. g. Caatinga) than to those of forests, as expected (Fig. 34). Even assemblages of forest

areas that are much closer (e. g. Intervalles, about 250 km far from EEI) than some Cerrado areas (e. g. Maracá, over 4000 km far from EEI) are less similar to the EEI assemblage. Among the frog assemblages of open areas, those located in the northern part of the country (Maracá, São José do Bonfim and Maturéia) are more similar to each other than those situated in Central and southeastern Brazil, despite the fact that two distinct types of open ecosystems (Caatinga and Cerrado) are included in the northern region. Among assemblages of Cerrado areas, the EEI assemblage is more similar to those of three central Brazil assemblages (Águas Emendadas, Silvania, and Manso) than to that of a closer locality (Canastra), mainly because the latter include areas of rocky fields in which many endemic frog species occur (see Haddad et al. 1988).

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