

SPECIES DIVERSITY AND ACTIVITY OF INSECTIVOROUS BATS IN THREE HABITATS IN LA VIRGEN DE SARAPIQUÍ, COSTA RICA

Amanda Cormier, Colorado College
Advisor: Bernal Rodríguez, PhD

Pineapple farms make up 45,000 hectares of Costa Rican landscape and are the second most exported crop. This is economically beneficial for the Costa Ricans, but greatly affects the natural flora and fauna because it is such a low growing crop. This study examined the differences in insectivorous bat species diversity and activity in the habitat gradient between the forest in Tirimbina Biological Reserve in La Virgen de Sarapiquí, Heredia, Costa Rica and the nearby pineapple farm called Finca Corsicana. Over a four week period in March and April 2013, sonic recorders were placed at different sites to pick up the bats' calls. Then the recordings were analyzed to identify the species. There were four families present and 19 different species. There was a significant decrease in the number of bat passes (the number of times a bat passes the recorder) in the pineapple farm ($x=22.6$), in comparison to the border ($x=39.9$), and the forest ($x=44.2$) ($P=0.0028$).