

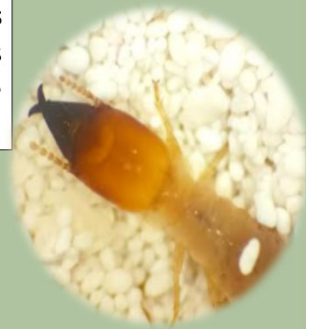


Diversity of Isoptera in Livestock Areas of the Espinal Region of Northeast Argentina.

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Síntesis en español
Las termitas desempeñan un rol crucial en los ecosistemas terrestres. Cada vez, con mayor frecuencia se destaca el papel de las termitas como **"bioindicadores"** de perturbaciones en el hábitat, ya que las asociaciones de especies muestran una marcada respuesta a los cambios en el uso de la tierra. En este trabajo se analiza por primera vez en la región Espinal del Nordeste Argentino, el efecto que tiene las actividades ganaderas sobre los ensambles de termias. Se logró registrar la presencia de 6 taxones, lo cual, es notoriamente inferior a la diversidad registrada en otras regiones.

Termites play a crucial role in terrestrial ecosystems. **The role of termites as "bioindicators" of habitat disturbances is increasingly highlighted**, since species associations show a marked response to changes in land use, making them valuable tools for the evaluation and environmental health monitoring.



The Espinal region in Argentina encompasses the southern areas of the provinces of **Corrientes**, the northern parts of **Entre Ríos**, portions of **Santa Fe**, **Córdoba**, **San Luis**, **La Pampa**, and the southern reaches of **Buenos Aires**. This region is characterized by gently rolling plains, low mountain ranges, grassland savannahs, and scattered trees. The climate ranges from humid and hot to dry and temperate. Annual rainfall varies from 1170 mm in the east to 350 mm in the west and south. Despite being one of the regions most affected by environmental degradation, there have been no studies conducted to analyze the impact of these disturbances on termite communities, as has been done for the Chaco and Paraná regions.



The first-time description of termite communities is presented in this study, achieved through the implementation of a standardized sampling protocol. The study was carried out in regions where livestock is present, including both areas covered in forest and grasslands. The samples were fixed in 80% alcohol, then transferred to the laboratory, where the identification of the taxa was carried out

While the Chaco region is known for its vast termite diversity in Argentina, the results obtained only encompass 8% of the total species recorded, which is 35% of all species in the ecoregion.

In the forested area, 2 species of Kalotermitidae (*Rugitermes rugosus*, *Rugitermes nodulosus*) were found, while in the grassland area, 1 species of Nasutitermitinae (*Cortaritermes fulviceps*) and 3 unidentified species of Apicotermatinae were identified.

