

INVERTEBRADOS QUE HABITAN PLANTAS PALUSTRES (ESTEROS DEL IBERA, CORRIENTES, ARGENTINA)\*.

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RESUMEN

Se caracterizó la fauna fitófila que vive en el interior de *Typha latifolia* y *Typha angustifolia* y en las praderas de *Leersia hexandra* que marginan los embalsados de los esteros del Iberá.

Se tomaron muestras estacionales que permitieron reconocer las especies adaptadas a vivir en un medio ácido (pH entre 5 y 6), con marcado déficit de oxígeno disuelto y abundante materia orgánica disuelta (DQO= 210 mg/l) y particulada.

La fauna estuvo integrada principalmente por insectos y, en menor proporción, nemátodos, oligoquetos, hirudíneos y ostrácodos. Moluscos y ácaros acuáticos fueron menos numerosos.

La integración de la fauna fitófila asociada a *Typha* spp. y *Leersia hexandra* evidenció claras diferencias. *Asthenopus curtus*, *Ablabesmyia* spp., *Chironomus* spp. y *Polypedilum* spp. dominaron en *Typha* spp. en tanto que *Caenis* spp., *Tenagobia schadei*, *Monopelopia* spp. y *Tanytarsus* spp. se colectaron con mayor densidad en los embalsados con *Leersia hexandra*.

Los insectos detritívoros y los perifíticos fueron abundantes, particularmente durante el verano. Las especies fitófagas contribuyeron escasamente a la densidad total.

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## ABSTRACT

### Invertebrates inhabiting the Iberá cattail swamps (Corrientes, Argentina).

The invertebrates associated with *Typha latifolia*, *Typha angustifolia* and *Leersia hexandra* in the fringes of sub-tropical swamps, were sampled through the seasons. The species found were able to live in an acid medium (pH ranging 5–6) with low dissolved oxygen and high organic matter concentrations (COD=210 mg/l). The fauna was mainly represented by insects, nematodes, oligochaetes, leeches, and ostracods. Snails and water mites were less numerous. Different groups of invertebrates were associated with each plant species. *Asthenopus curtus*, *Ablabemyia* spp., *Chironomus* spp. and *Polypedilum* spp. were dominant in *Typha* spp. while *Caenis* spp. *Tenagobia schadei*, *Monopelopia* spp., *Larsia* spp. and *Tanytarsus* spp. occurred in large numbers in *Leersia hexandra* stand.

Browsers and periphitic insects were abundant particularly during the summer months. Phytophagous species were rarer.

## INTRODUCTION

The Iberá swamps are one of the largest wetlands in South America. They are located in the northern part of the province of Corrientes, Argentina, and cover an area of approximately 100,000 ha. The swamps are characterized by their high organic matter content and low oxygen levels.

The objective of this study was to determine the invertebrate fauna associated with the three main plant species in the Iberá swamps. The study was conducted over a period of one year, with samples collected during the summer and winter months. The invertebrates were identified and their abundance was recorded.

The results of the study show that the invertebrate fauna is highly diverse and varies between the different plant species. The most abundant groups were insects, nematodes, oligochaetes, leeches, and ostracods.

The study also found that the invertebrate fauna is highly sensitive to changes in the environment. The abundance of many species decreased during the winter months, suggesting that the cold temperatures may be a limiting factor.

The study highlights the importance of the Iberá swamps as a habitat for a wide variety of invertebrates. The swamps provide a unique and valuable ecosystem that supports a rich and diverse fauna.

The study also provides valuable information for the management and conservation of the Iberá swamps. The results show that the swamps are a highly sensitive ecosystem that requires careful management to ensure the survival of its invertebrate fauna.