DIVERSITY OF TERRESTRIAL ARTHROPODS IN A TROPICAL MOIST FOREST FROM WEST ECUADOR.

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Abstract

This work is a contribution to the knowledge of the arthropod-fauna in a moist forest from west Ecuador. In this life zone located at the western slope of the Andes, 2,430 specimens were captured and classified within 22 orders. Here we describe high-diversity areas that constitute potential zones for biodiversity studies and conservation at west Ecuador. Chrysomélidea (Insecta: Coleóptera), a family of defoliator beetles was the most abundant among 181 families recorded from twenty experimental units distributed between Chillanes and Cumandá. Diversity indices compared through a paired t-test allowed to identify the most diverse experimental units. Equal abundance of families in sample units was determined by the Equity Pielou Index.

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