ANURAN OF THE BRAZILIAN CERRADO

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ABSTRACT

The Brazilian Cerrado is the second largest Brazilian biome, composed by different kind of phytophysiognomy, being considered one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots. The climate is tropical with two defined seasons; there is the rainy season (from October to March) and the dry season (from April to September). The amphibians are among the most threatened vertebrates at the planet due mainly to their physiological constraints. The group is very sensitive to changes in environmental conditions, being used as bioindicators. There are about 150 species of amphibians in the Cerrado, this diversity maybe due to the high heterogeneity of landscapes in this biome, resulting in a high rate of endemism. Frogs face a major challenge in terrestrial environment, given the need to maintain a high permeability of their skin, important organ in the exchange of respiratory gases. The high permeability leads to high cutaneous water loss rates and also exposes these animals to dehydration in the terrestrial environment, frogs had to develop adaptations and found microhabitats where conditions are more favorable for their survival and reproduction. Most species breeds in temporary ponds located in open areas, although there are species that occur exclusively in gallery forests and use lotic water bodies to breed. Frogs have a series of physiological and behavioral strategies that vary according to the species and micro-habitats in which they are inserted to be able to remain living in the environment. The balance between the favorable conditions is complex and fragile, so it is essential that there are studies on these species and their peculiarities to elaborate conservation strategies specific to this region.

Keywords: Cerrado. Frogs. Diversity. Adaptations. Literature Review.