Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTool

DMP ID: https://doi.org/10.48321/D1965Q

Title: Exploring phenological patterns in monoecious fig trees: unraveling the role of ecological and biological traits on the fig – fig wasp mutualism

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Project abstract:

Understanding the ecological and evolutionary aspects of mutualistic interactions is essential for predicting the responses of species to environmental changes. This study aimed to investigate the phenological patterns and reproductive strategies in two closely related fig tree species, Ficus citrifolia and Ficus eximia. We conducted weekly monitoring of 99 F. citrifolia and 21 F. eximia trees from January 2006 to April 2011 in an area close to the southern edge of the tropical region in Brazil. Our results revealed contrasting phenological patterns between the two species, with F. citrifolia displaying an annual flowering pattern (1.4 episodes per tree year-1) and F. eximia a supra-annual pattern (0.5 episodes per tree year-1). We also found significant differences in reproductive strategies, with F. eximia producing more pistillate flowers, and consequently more seeds and pollinating wasps per fig than F. citrifolia, likely as an adaptation to overcome limitations of low population density, by maximizing the gene flow. The fig wasp, as the shorter-lived organism, was found to influence key processes associated with the success and stability of the mutualism, such as fig development and ripening. Our findings emphasize the importance of understanding the intricate interactions between mutualistic partners, and their adaptive responses to environmental conditions in shaping the reproductive strategies and genetic structure of fig tree populations.

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Exploring phenological patterns in monoecious fig trees: unraveling the role of ecological and biological traits on the fig – fig wasp mutualism - Description of Data and Metadata produced by the project
Phenological data from Ficus citrifolia individuals were collected on the USP campus in Ribeirão Preto city.
Data collection will take place from trees growing naturally in urban area.