

Cladoceran (Crustacea: Branchiopoda) biodiversity of protected areas in a Brazilian hotspot

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ABSTRACT: As less than 50% of the Cerrado Biome area in Brazil maintains its natural characteristics, its indigenous fauna and flora have been confined to the few areas designated for protection. However, a significant part of the protected areas in the Cerrado still need to be studied, and little attention is given to the aquatic biota. In this study, we present a study of the Cladocera fauna in 11 preserved areas of this Biome. Altogether, the protected areas harbor 59 species. Representatives of the Chydoridae family were found in all areas. The number of species observed in some areas represented a substantial pool of the total regional richness (sometimes more than 1/3 of all known species). Besides that, low similarities between protected areas were observed (< 50%). We can speculate that these areas are able to maintain different biological components in the case of the Cladocera. Despite the high number of protected areas in the Cerrado Biome, our results can still be taken as underestimates of richness and endemism.

How to cite this article: Sousa F.D.R., Elmoor-Loureiro L.M.A., Mendonça-Galvão L., Panarelli E.A., Arruda T.F., Fagundes B.G. 2018. Cladoceran (Crustacea: Branchiopoda) biodiversity of protected areas in a Brazilian hotspot // *Invert. Zool.* Vol.15. No.3. P.309–322. doi: 10.15298/invertzool.15.3.09

KEY WORDS: Cerrado, endemism, conservation units, species richness, savanna.

Биоразнообразие Cladocera (Crustacea: Branchiopoda) в его «горячей точке» на охраняемых территориях Бразилии

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РЕЗЮМЕ: Поскольку лишь менее половины территории Бразилии, занимаемой «серрадо» как особым биомом, находится в ее естественном состоянии, фауна и флора данной территории наиболее богата в нескольких областях, предназначенных для сохранения этого биома. Однако, значительная часть охраняемых территорий серрадо нуждается в изучении, в частности, мало внимания уделяется изучению водной биоты. В данной работе мы исследовали фауну Cladocera в 11 охраняемых областях, занимаемых данным биомом. Всего найдено 59 видов кладоцер. Представители семейства Chydoridae были найдены во всех областях. Пул видов отдельных областей представляет собой существенный вклад в общий пул регионального биоразнообразия (более трети известных видов). Кроме того, фауна отдельных охраняемых регионов имеет низкие значения сходства (< 50%). Мы можем предположить, что в разных областях в случае Cladocera поддерживается специфическое разнообразие. Принимая во внимание большое число охраняемых областей серрадо, полученные данные могут быть неполными как в оценке биоразнообразия, так и степени эндемичности фауны кладоцер.

Как цитировать эту статью: Sousa F.D.R., Elmoor-Loureiro L.M.A., Mendonça-Galvão L., Panarelli E.A., Arruda T.F., Fagundes B.G. 2018. Cladoceran (Crustacea: Branchiopoda) biodiversity of protected areas in a Brazilian hotspot // *Invert. Zool.* Vol.15. No.3. P.309–322. doi: 10.15298/invertzool.15.3.09

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: серрадо, эндмизм, единица сохранения биоразнообразия, видовое богатство, саванна

Introduction

Due to its high biological diversity and endemism the Brazilian Cerrado is considered one of the 25 most endangered areas in the world (Myers *et al.*, 2000; Myers, 2003), despite apparent human influences. Currently less than 50% of the Cerrado Biome area maintains its natural characteristics (Ganem *et al.*, 2013), and inevitably, its indigenous fauna and flora have been confined to the few areas that are designated for conservation (Maury, 2002).

Unfortunately, the areas that protect the Cerrado fragments still lack surveys that can define their real biodiversity, which could help us in the improvement of a conservation regime (Klink, Machado, 2005; Oliveira *et al.*, 2017). One of these deficiencies, pointed out by Agostinho *et al.* (2005), is the lack of attention given to the aquatic biota in the definition of strategies

for selection of the conservation units in Brazil, leading to underestimates of the total biodiversity. In other words, even the already established conservation units still need to be studied. Assessing species diversity (richness and composition) in aquatic systems within protected areas and identifying patterns and processes is very important for understanding the ecological dynamics of such units and setting targets to define more conservation areas (Lawrence *et al.*, 2011; Hermoso *et al.*, 2016). This should be taken as a priority for the conservation of Cerrado, as well as other Biomes found in Brazilian territory.

The Brazilian Cerrado is considered a biodiversity hotspot, and its high endemism level has been recognized (Klink, Machado, 2005). It is supposed that a large number of the aquatic ecosystems present in this Biome may harbor a high species diversity, as demonstrated by Reid

(1984, 1987, 1993a, b) when studying the Copepoda from diverse environments. In the case of the Cladocera, the knowledge on the diversity of species found in aquatic ecosystems of the Cerrado has increased in recent years (see the project <https://cladocera.wordpress.com>), including the ones located in protected areas (Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro, 2012, 2013; Sousa *et al.*, 2013). Despite all the efforts made, the Cerrado Biome has a vast territorial extent and shelters about 382 protected areas of different modalities, showing that many gaps still need to be filled. The objective of this study was to evaluate the richness and composition of the Cladocera fauna observed in some preserved areas of this Biome.

Material and Methods

The Cerrado is the second-largest South American Biome, which comprises 2 million square kilometers of the national territory, occupying the Brazilian Central Plateau (Bustamante *et al.*, 2012). The region presents a wide variety of aquatic ecosystems, as numerous springs, shallow lakes, wet grasslands and low-order lotic systems, which flow along eight of the 12 Brazilian great river basins (Padovesi-Fonseca, 2006; Lima, Silva, 2006). It comprises a vegetation type associated to special ecological conditions where “savanna vegetation dominates, but it is not exclusive”, being interspersed with riparian or gallery forests, patches of semideciduous forest, swamp and/or marshes (Bourlière, Hadley, 1983).

Cerrado climate is Aw (rainy tropical, according to Köppen classification) marked by strong seasonality, with a rainy season from October to April concentrating up to 80% of annual precipitation (mean temperature around 29 °C), and a dry season from May to September when precipitation ranges from zero to below 50 mm (mean temperature around 18 °C). Annual mean precipitation is around 1500 mm, ranging from 750 to 2000 mm (Silva *et al.*, 2008). Soils in the Cerrado Biome are mostly Latossolos (46%), according to the Brazilian Soil Classification, which corresponds to Oxisols in the US soil classification. These typical-

ly tropical soils are weathered and highly acidic, poor, with a low cation-exchange capacity (CEC), deep and well drained and show a high levels of exchangeable aluminum; their high permeability can be compared to sandy soils (Reatto, Martins, 2005). Near streams, Gleissolos (there is no analogous type in US Soil Taxonomy, although the Aquox suborder would be similar) are also common (Silva *et al.*, 2011). These are reduced hydromorphic soils generally occupying landscape depressions frequently flooded (Reatto, Martins, 2005).

The present study was based on two data sources: literature data and the analysis of samples collected in Sempre Vivas National Park, Serra da Canastra National Park, Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, IBGE Reserve, and Terra Ronca State Park (Fig. 1). The samples evaluated in this study were taken using a plankton net (mesh size of 50, 68, 80 or 100 µm) and preserved in ethanol or 4% formaldehyde. Different kinds of water bodies (wetlands, streams, rivers, and ponds), habitats (plankton, bottom sediment, aquatic macrophytes, leaves, and litter from riparian zone) located in different altitudes were sampled (Table 1). The samples were screened under a stereomicroscope, and all the cladoceran individuals were identified based on a specialized literature (e.g., Smirnov, 1992, 1996; Elmoor-Loureiro, 1997; Kotov *et al.*, 2004; Kotov, Stifter, 2006; Sinev, Elmoor-Loureiro, 2010; Van Damme *et al.*, 2010, 2011). Jaccard similarity index and cluster analysis were used to evaluate species composition among protected areas. A rarefaction analyses was used to evaluate the sampling effort. Also, the non-parametric estimator Jackknife 1 (based on incidence data) was used to evaluate the estimated species richness. These analyses were carried out using the program PAST (Hammer *et al.*, 2001).

Results and Discussion

In total, were observed in the protected areas evaluated 59 species belonging to the families Sididae, Daphniidae, Ilyocryptidae, Macrothri-

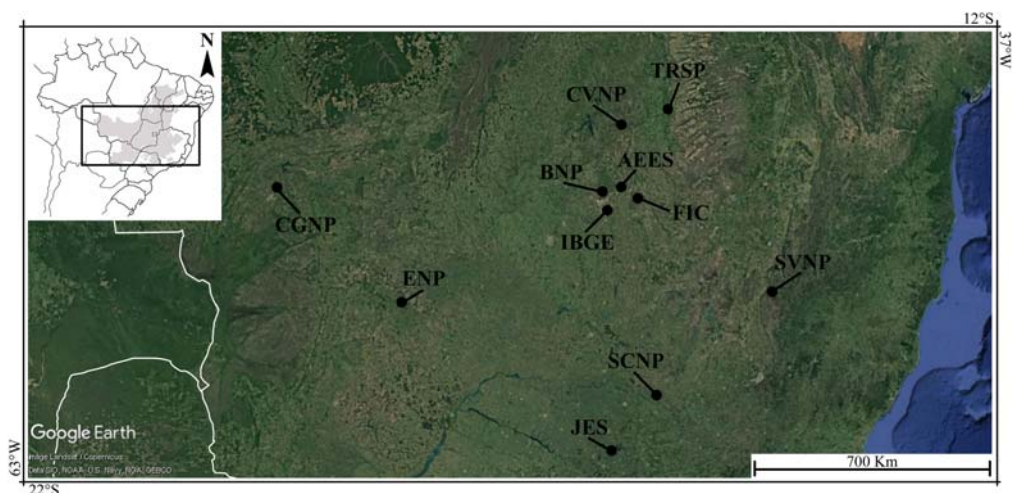


Fig. 1. Map of localization of the Cerrado Biome (grey) and studied protected areas. FIC — Formosa's Instructional Camp; AEEES — Águas Emendadas Ecological Station; JES — Jataí Ecological Station; IBGE — IBGE Ecological Reserve; TRSP — Terra Ronca State Park; BNP — Brasília National Park; CVNP — Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park; CGNP — Chapada dos Guimarães National Park; ENP — Emas National Park; SVN — Sempre Vivas National Park; SCNP — Serra da Canastra National Park.

Рис. 1. Карта расположения биома серрадо (закрашен серым цветом) и локализации исследованных охраняемых территорий. FIC — Formosa's Instructional Camp; AEEES — Águas Emendadas Ecological Station; JES — Jataí Ecological Station; IBGE — IBGE Ecological Reserve; TRSP — Terra Ronca State Park; BNP — Brasília National Park; CVNP — Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park; CGNP — Chapada dos Guimarães National Park; ENP — Emas National Park; SVN — Sempre Vivas National Park; SCNP — Serra da Canastra National Park.

cidae, Bosminidae and Chydoridae (Table 2). The estimated species richness of the protected areas was $74.4 (\pm 4.9)$ species, which corresponds to the absence of an asymptote on the rarefaction curve (Fig. 2A). In other words, more sampling effort is necessary to improve our knowledge about cladoceran biodiversity in protected areas. The highest richness values were observed in SVN and AEEES, and the lowest in CGNP, JES, and TRSP (Fig. 2B). In some protected areas, the number of species represent a substantial contribution to the regional richness. For example, in the Federal District 56 cladoceran species (Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro, 2012; Sousa *et al.*, 2013) were reported, and the number of species observed for AEEES and BNP, two principal protected areas in this region, was about 50% of the total richness (Fig. 2). Likewise, the representativeness of the Cladocera taxa reported from conservation units in the state of Minas Gerais was also

very high, being almost a third of the total richness (Santos-Wisniewski *et al.*, 2011).

In addition to being the primary conservation strategy practiced in Brazil (Mattar *et al.*, 2018), the creation of protected areas was based on the idea that such areas need to have the capacity to harbor different ecosystems and different biological components (Heny-Silva, 2005). From this point of view and based only on our results, protected areas such as FIC, AEEES, BNP, ENP, CVNP, and SVN can harbor almost all the cladoceran lineages, represented by different families (Fig. 3). The family Chydoridae was present in all studied areas, and it was the single cladoceran lineage observed in JES and CGNP (Table 2).

As expected, the Chydoridae comprised the highest number of species in all protected areas, which is the usual pattern observed in different ecosystems of Brazil and everywhere. The Chydoridae is the most diverse cladoceran lineage,

Table 1. List of studied preserved areas of Cerrado Biome.
Таблица 1. Список изученных охраняемых территорий биома “серрадо”.

Code	Protected Area	Geographic Coordinates	Altitude	Federative Unit	Kind of Environment	Source
FIC	Formosa's Instructional Camp	15°49'35.70"S, 47°13'49.40"W	960 m	Goiás	pond, wetland	Sousa et al., 2013
AEES	Águas Emendadas Ecological Station	15°35'57.6"S, 47°41'46.4"W	960 m	Federal District	streams, ponds	Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro 2012
JES	Jataí Ecological Station	21°30'S, 47°40'W	670 m	São Paulo	river, pond	Santos-Wisniewski et al., 1999
IBGE	IBGE Ecological Reserve	15°56'48.6"S, 47°52'04.9"W	1090 m	Federal District	streams, pond	Sampling
TRSP	Terra Ronca State Park	13°36'3.72"S, 46°17'21.27"W	700 m	Goiás	streams, wetlands, rivers, riparian zone	Sampling
BNP	Brasília National Park	15°41'18"S, 47°56'26.10"W	1080 m	Federal District	pond, wetland	Sousa et al., 2013
CVNP	Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park	14°04'26.5"S, 47°39'40.7"W	1387 m	Goiás	streams, wetlands, pond	Sampling
CGNP	Chapada dos Guimarães National Park	15°20'4.03"S, 55°52'54.02"W	597 m	Mato Grosso	streams, pond	Sampling
ENP	Emas National Park	18°16.245"S, 52°50.529"W	810 m	Goiás	River, pond, wetland	Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro 2008
SVNP	Sempre Vivas National Park	17°46'03"S, 43°46'02"W	900 m	Minas Gerais	streams, ponds	Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro 2013
SCNP	Serra da Canastra National Park	20°09'56"S, 46°41'15"W	1330 m	Minas Gerais	temporary ponds	Sampling

Table 2. Cladocera species in protected areas of the Cerrado Biome.
Таблица 2. Виды Cladocera охраняемых территорий биома “серрадо”.

	FIC	AEES	JES	IBGE	TRSP	BNP	ENP	CVNP	CGNP	SVNP	SCNP
Order Ctenopoda Sars, 1865											
Family Sidae Baird, 1850											
<i>Diaphanosoma birgei</i> Kofínek, 1891		X									
<i>Latonopsis australis</i> (Richard, 1987)	X	X				X	X	X		X	
<i>Pseudosida ramosa</i> (Daday, 1904)								X		X	
<i>Pseudosida bidentata</i> Herrick, 1884										X	
<i>Sarsilatona serricauda</i> (Sars, 1901)										X	
Order Anomopoda Sars, 1865											
Suborder Aradopoda Kotov, 2013											
Family Daphniidae Straus, 1820											
<i>Ceriodaphnia cornuta</i> Sars, 1886	X	X						X		X	
<i>Ceriodaphnia reticulata</i> (Jurine, 1820)		X									
<i>Ceriodaphnia silvestrii</i> Daday, 1902		X									
<i>Simocephalus latirostris</i> Stingelin, 1906										X	
<i>Simocephalus semiserratus</i> Sars, 1901										X	
<i>Simocephalus serrulatus</i> (Kock, 1841)		X								X	
Suborder Radopoda Dumont et Silva-Briano, 1998											
Family Ilyocryptidae Smirnov, 1976 emend. Smirnov, 1992											
<i>Ilyocryptus sarsi</i> Stingelin, 1913								X		X	
<i>Ilyocryptus spinifer</i> Herrick, 1882	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X

Table 2 (continued).
Таблица 2 (продолжение).

	FIC	AEES	JES	IBGE	TRSP	BNP	ENP	CVNP	CGNP	SVNP	SCNP
Family Macrothricidae Norman et Brady, 1867 emend. Dumont et Silva-Briano, 1998											
<i>Macrothrix elegans</i> Sars, 1901	X	X					X	X		X	X
<i>Macrothrix paulensis</i> (Sars, 1900)	X	X				X		X			
<i>Macrothrix squamosa</i> Sars, 1901	X	X				X		X			X
<i>Sirebocerus pygmaeus</i> Sars, 1901	X	X				X	X	X			X
Family Bosminidae Baird, 1845 emend. Sars, 1865											
<i>Bosmina (Bosmina) freyi</i> De Melo et Hebert, 1994										X	
<i>Bosmina (Liederobosmina) tubicen</i> Brehm, 1953		X								X	
<i>Bosminopsis deitersi</i> Richard, 1895		X								X	
Family Chydoridae Dybowski et Grochowski, 1894 emend. Frey, 1967											
Subfamily Chydorinae											
Dybowski et Grochowski, 1894 emend. Frey, 1967											
<i>Alonella clathratula</i> Sars, 1896	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Alonella dadayi</i> Birge, 1910	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Chydorus brevilabris</i> Frey, 1980	X	X	X					X	X		
<i>Chydorus dentifer</i> Daday, 1905	X	X	X		X			X			
<i>Chydorus eurynotus</i> Sars, 1901	X	X	X			X		X		X	
<i>Chydorus pubescens</i> Sars, 1901	X	X	X			X		X		X	
<i>Disparalona</i> sp.											
<i>Disparalona leptorhyncha</i> Smirnov, 1996	X	X	X	X							
<i>Dunnevedia odontoplax</i> Sars, 1901	X										
<i>Ephemeroporus barroisi</i> (Richard, 1984)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X

Table 2 (continued).
Таблица 2 (продолжение).

	FIC	AEES	JES	IBGE	TRSP	BNP	ENP	CVNP	CGNP	SVNP	SCNP
<i>Ephemeroporus hybridus</i> (Daday, 1905)		X	X		X		X	X		X	
<i>Ephemeroporus tridentatus</i> (Bergamin, 1931)	X		X				X				X
<i>Ephemeroporus quasimodo</i> Elmoor-Loureiro, 2014	X										
Subfamily Aloninae Dybowski et Grochowski, 1894 emend. Frey, 1967											
<i>Acroperus tupinamba</i> Sinev et Elmoor-Loureiro, 2010	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Alona guttata</i> Sars, 1862		X	X	X			X		X	X	X
<i>Alona isabellae</i> Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro et Santos, 2016	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
<i>Alona ossiani</i> Sinev, 1998	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Alona yara</i> Sinev et Elmoor-Loureiro, 2010		X									X
<i>Anthalona neotropica</i> Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro et Debastiani-Junior, 2015					X				X		
<i>Anthalona verrucosa verrucosa</i> (Sars, 1901)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Bergamina lineolata</i> (Sars, 1901)											
<i>Camptocercus dadayi</i> Stingelin, 1913								X		X	
<i>Celsinotum candango</i> Sinev et Elmoor-Loureiro, 2010						X					X
<i>Coronatella monacantha</i> (Sars, 1901)								X			
<i>Euryalona orientalis</i> (Daday, 1898)	X							X		X	
<i>Flavalona asymmetrica</i> Sousa et Elmoor-Loureiro, 2018	X					X		X	X	X	X

Table 2 (continued).
Таблица 2 (продолжение).

	FIC	AEES	JES	IBGE	TRSP	BNP	ENP	CVNP	CGNP	SVNP	SCNP
<i>Flavalona iheringula</i> (Kotov et Sinev, 2004)	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X
<i>Graptoleberis occidentalis</i> Sars, 1901	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
<i>Karualona muelleri</i> (Richard, 1897)	X					X		X			X
<i>Leydigopsis curvirostris</i> Sars, 1901	X					X	X			X	
<i>Leydigopsis ornata</i> Daday, 1905			X								
<i>Magnospina dentifera</i> (Sars, 1901)	X					X		X			
<i>Monospilus brachyspinus</i> Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro et Panarelli, 2017								X		X	
<i>Monospilus macroerosus</i> Sousa, Elmoor-Loureiro et Panarelli, 2017					X						
<i>Nicsmirmovius paggii</i> Sousa et Elmoor-Loureiro, 2017					X						
<i>Notolona sculpta</i> (Sars, 1901)						X					
<i>Ovalona glabra</i> (Sars, 1901)	X		X								X
<i>Oxyurella ciliata</i> Bergamin, 1939		X	X							X	
<i>Parvalona parva</i> (Daday, 1905)		X									
Total	28	32	17	12	12	21	17	27	10	34	20

FIC — Formosa's Instructional Camp; AEES — Águas Emendadas Ecological Station; JES — Jataí Ecological Station; IBGE — IBGE Ecological Reserve; TRSP — Terra Ronca State Park; BNP — Brasília National Park; CVNP — Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park; CGNP — Chapada dos Guimarães National Park; ENP — Emas National Park; SVNP — Sempre Vivas National Park; SCNP — Serra da Canastra National Park.

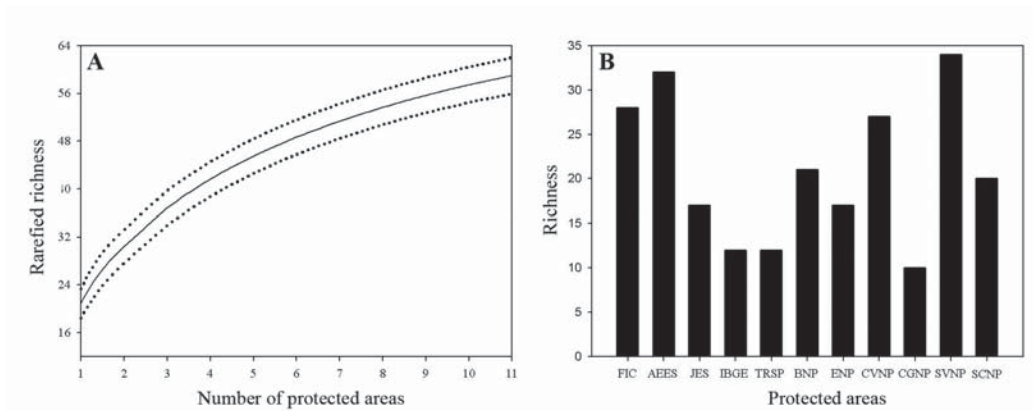


Fig. 2. Species richness observed in the protected areas of the Cerrado Biome. A — rarefied richness (solid line — average, dotted line — standard deviation). B — species richness in different protected areas.

Рис. 2. Видовое разнообразие охраняемых территорий биома серрадо. А — кривая разряжения (сплошная линия — среднее, пунктир — стандартное отклонение). В — видовое богатство отдельных охраняемых территорий.

occupying approximately 47% of all known species diversity (Forró *et al.*, 2008). In Brazil, the Chydoridae species represent about 53% of all hitherto recorded taxa (Elmoor-Loureiro, 1997, 2000). More precisely, some species of this family were found exclusively in SCNP, CVNP, FIC, JES, TRSP, BNP, and AEES (Ta-

ble 2). Among these species, *Monospilus macroerosus* and *Celsinotum candango* are indicated as endemic to the Cerrado Biome (Sinev, Elmoor-Loureiro, 2010; Sousa *et al.*, 2017). *Monospilus brachyspinus* and *Ephemeroporus quasimodo* also are considered endemic to this Biome.

Table 3. Similarity among the cladoceran fauna of protected areas of the Cerrado Biome according to Jaccard index.

Таблица 3. Сходство фаун Cladocera охраняемых территорий биома “серрадо” по индексу Жаккара.

	TRSP	IBGE	CVNP	SVNP	BNP	JES	ENP	AEES	FIC	SCNP
IBGE	0.41									
CVNP	0.30	0.30								
SVNP	0.24	0.31	0.52							
BNP	0.32	0.43	0.50	0.37						
JES	0.31	0.45	0.25	0.30	0.31					
ENP	0.38	0.52	0.33	0.41	0.46	0.41				
AEES	0.25	0.37	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.40	0.40			
FIC	0.25	0.37	0.52	0.40	0.63	0.40	0.45	0.46		
SCNP	0.23	0.45	0.38	0.28	0.46	0.32	0.48	0.36	0.45	
CGNP	0.29	0.46	0.19	0.22	0.29	0.35	0.28	0.23	0.26	0.36

FIC — Formosa’s Instructional Camp; AEES — Águas Emendadas Ecological Station; JES — Jatui Ecological Station; IBGE — IBGE Ecological Reserve; TRSP — Terra Ronca State Park; BNP — Brasília National Park; CVNP — Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park; CGNP — Chapada dos Guimarães National Park; ENP — Emas National Park; SVNP — Sempre Vivas National Park; SCNP = Serra da Canastra National Park.

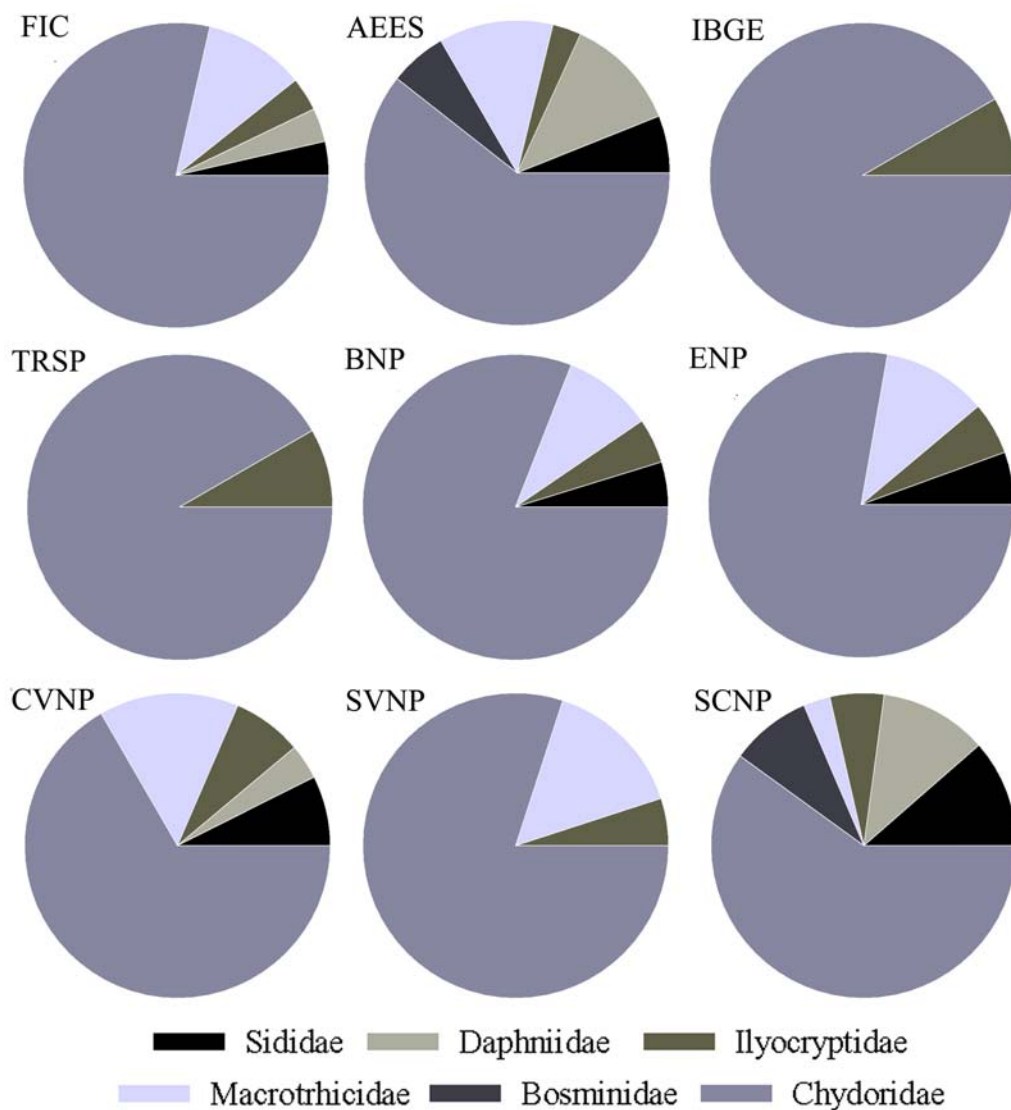


Fig. 3. Proportional number of species for each Cladocera family observed in different protected areas of the Cerrado Biome. Results for Jataí Ecological Station (JES) and Chapada dos Guimarães National Park (CGNP) were not indicated because they present only Chydoridae species.

Рис. 3. Доля видов, относящихся к различным семействам Cladocera в различных охраняемых районах биома серрадо. Результаты для Jataí Ecological Station (JES) и Chapada dos Guimarães National Park (CGNP) не показаны, поскольку в последних встречены только представители семейства Chydoridae.

Besides Chydoridae species, some Sididae and Daphniidae have also occurred exclusively in SVNP and AEES (Table 2). This fauna specificity and the low values of similarity (> 50%) among almost all protected

areas indicate a particular situation (Table 3). The closer areas represent more similar species composition (BNP, FIC, and AEES; Fig. 4). Nevertheless, it is necessary to keep in mind that both areas lodge the main Cla-

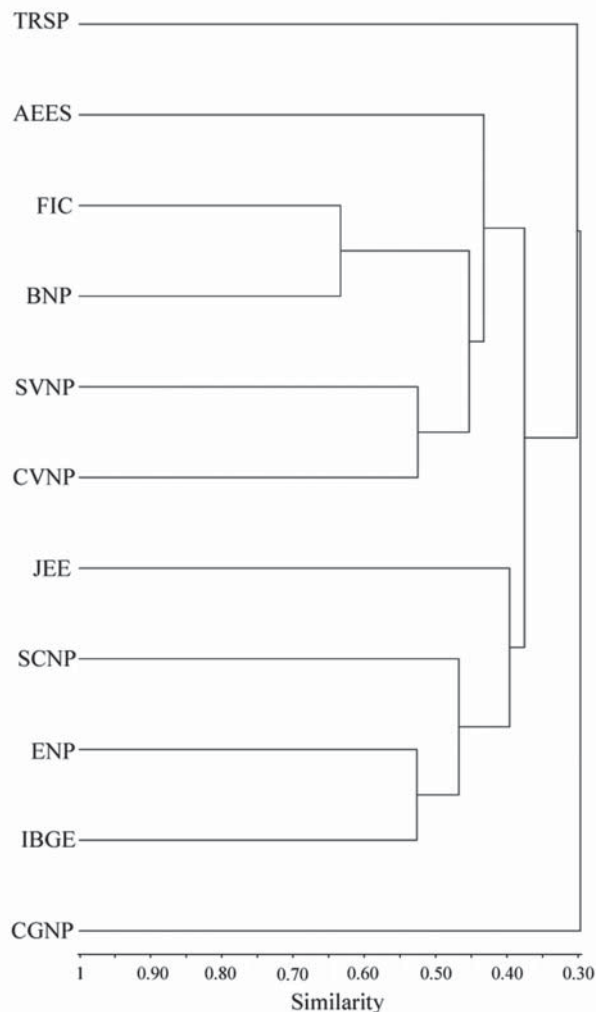


Fig. 4. Cluster analysis resulting from the grouping of the protected areas of the Cerrado Biome. Cophenetic correlation = 0.77.

Рис. 4. Кластерный анализ сходства охраняемых территорий биома серрадо. Кофенетическая корреляция = 0,77.

docera lineages, as well a set of particular species. The same could be suggested for the CVNP-SVNP group (Fig. 4).

The studied protected areas of the Cerrado Biome harbor a high diversity of cladocerans. In some Brazilian regions, the observed richness of these areas represents a significant proportion of the regional richness. In addition, the faunal composition indicates different arrangements in each of the evaluated areas, plus pres-

ence of endemic species is detected. From this point of view, at least for the Cladocera, the protected areas of the Cerrado Biome fulfill at least one of their primary functions, which is the ability to house different biological components. Nevertheless, the high number of protected areas still need to be investigated in the Cerrado Biome. We can assume that the Cladocera richness and endemism may be higher than it is detected here.

Acknowledgements

This study had financial support from CNPq (process 563318/2010-4 SISBIOTA CAMPOS RUPESTRES; process 457431/2012-1 SISBIOTA REDE COMCERRADO) and FNMA (process 02000.005571/2005-89). Many thanks to Dr. R.J. Shiel for linguistic corrections of earlier draft.

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Responsible editor A.A. Kotov