

MIXED TROOPS OF *SAIMIRI SCIUREUS ALBIGENA* - *CEBUS APELLA* IN FRAGMENTS AT COLOMBIAN LLANOS

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We collected one year data of scan sampling (every 5 minutes) on the frequency and foraging behavior of a wild group of Colombian squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus albigena*) in forest fragments, at the Colombian Llanos, when they were foraging alone and in mixed groups with *Cebus apella*. Fruit availability was recorded using phenological transects in order to calculate fruit production and number of fruiting trees, once every month. Arthropod abundance was recorded simulating primates' behavior in plots of 5 x 5m and trails of 500m. We analyze mixed troop formation throughout the study period and when resource availability was high (both resources were abundant), medium (one resource was abundant and the other was scarce) and low (both resources were scarce). Also, we correlate fruit and arthropod availability with mixed troop formations, separately. Mixed troops formations were rare during the entire study period (KS:26.85, $P < 0.05$, $N = 39$) but were correlated with higher arthropod availability ($t = 2,634$; $P < 0.05$; $gI = 11$). There was no correlation of the frequency of association with two indices of fruit availability (number of trees in fruit and overall fruit production). On the other hand, when both resources were combined, mixed troops formation were more frequent in months of medium and high availability (medium (KS:15.31; $P < 0.05$, $N = 24$), high (KS:8.0; $P < 0.05$, $N = 12$) and low (KS:2.0; $P > 0.05$, $N = 3$)). We hypothesize that *Saimiri* associate with *Cebus* less in this ecosystem due to greater resource competition (inter and intra-specific) in these forests that are not only less productive, but reduced in area relative to continuous canopy forest.

Keywords: *Saimiri sciureus albigena*, *Cebus apella*, mixed troops, Colombian Llanos