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HEMATIMETRIC INDICES OF MANED SLOTH (BRADYPUS TORQUATUS) AT RESERVA ECOLÓGICA DA SAPIRANGA, MATA DE SÃO JOÃO, BAHIA (BRAZIL)

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RESUMO

Conservation medicine is an interdisciplinary science that shows the integration between animal, human and environmental health. These elements are inseparable and the balance between them interferes with the preservation of biodiversity, especially when considering animals threatened with extinction. The maned sloth (Bradypus torquatus) is endemic to the Atlantic Forest and occurs in only four Brazilian states (Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, Bahia and Sergipe), which conservation status is considered as vulnerable (IUCN Red List and Brazilian List, both 2014). To assess whether an animal is healthy or not, it is important to know the physiological parameters of the species, both for clinical examination and for complementary examinations. There are no studies on the hematimetric physiological parameters of maned sloths, thus our main goal was to know the health status of these animals and try to establish the physiological parameters of the species. Thus, active searches were carried out in the Sapiranga Ecological Reserve (Mata de São João - Bahia, Brazil), for 10 days, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (sampling eff ort = 70 hours) and 6 maned sloth were captured. The blood obtained was centrifuged in microcapillaries (15.800g / 5 minutes), in order to obtain the microhematocrit (%). In addition, 10µL of blood was diluted in 2mL of 0.9% saline solution (1:201), to count the total erythrocytes in the Neubauer chamber. The results obtained were concentrated between the following values: microhematocrit (%) - 40 to 50; Erythrocytes (106 / mm3) - 8.19 to 10.23; and Mean Cell Volume (MCV) (fl) - 395.23 to 500. Our sample n is still small to establish the physiological parameters. Furthermore, it is not yet possible to analyze whether there is a relationship with sex, age and reproductive status, since 4 animals were males and 2 were pregnant females. Likewise, we cannot say whether there is a difference between the values of Bradypus variegatus or not, although our preliminary results show that this is possible. Notably, sometimes physiological parameters from same gender species, like Bradypus variegatus, more common and studied, are useful. However, the comparison between Choloepus hoffmani and Choloepus didactylus, also sloths from same gender, makes it clear that this methodology is not the most appropriate, and may lead to misinterpretations and even misconduct. This work is pioneering for this species and will continue, at least, for the next 4 years. Thus, we will have more information about the species, which is important for us to analyze its health, contributing to conservation medicine.

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PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Conservation medicine, hematimetric indices, maned sloth

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