

AN ETOGRAM FOR ORPHANS OF *BRADYPUS VARIEGATUS* (PILOSA; BRADYPODIDAE) IN REHABILITATION PROCESS IN CETAS TANGARÁ, PERNAMBUCO.

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RESUMO

Rehabilitation is a process considered complete (or complex), as it allows the species to return to its natural habits of life. Some infants orphaned by *Bradypus variegatus* when they enter the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center - CETAS Tangará de Pernambuco, if necessary, are directed to the rehabilitation process. In this age group, the animal has already acquired some learning from its mother and is still dependent, making behavioral monitoring necessary, identifying its needs. The work aimed to evaluate the behavioral frequency of *Bradypus variegatus*, orphaned infants, during the rehabilitation process. This process was carried out with six individuals, kept in cages, separately, provided with branches of trees, cloth substrate, for accommodation, and food. Observations were performed by focal method, using an Etogram divided into 30 sessions per individual, lasting 15 minutes, in the morning and afternoon shifts. During the sessions, 16 behavioral patterns were observed: Sleeping, Foraging, Eating, Sitting, Hanging, Lying, Moving, Defending, Vocalizing, Scratching, Yawning, Urinating, Interacting and Trying to escape. The behaviors that showed higher frequencies were: Moving (34.9%), Scratching (21.8%), Sitting (21%) and Eating (17.8%). The less frequent ones were: Defending yourself (1%), Urinating (1.2%), Interacting (1.2%) and Trying to escape (1.9%). The animals were in the phase of partial independence, had a higher frequency of displacement and exploration of the surroundings, knowledge of the new environment. It was noticed that it was possible to identify the foods together with the independence in the apprehension of these foods. The younger ones feel more comfortable with the presence of wood, so there is no need to use a substitute mother to feel protected. The scratching habit shows a natural behavior of the species, indicative of a natural thermoregulation mechanism, which dispenses with an artificial source of heat. Sitting demonstrates the beginning of adaptation to the environment. It was observed that animals at that age interact minimally, as a characteristic of a kind of non-cohesive social life, even showing great curiosity with everything that is around. The rehabilitation process aimed at orphans of the species *B. variegatus*, requires for its execution, in-depth knowledge of mother-cub interaction in free life. Unfortunately, such information is still quite scarce, considering the difficulties of obtaining data through systematic observations in free life, since they consist of refined behavioral patterns that usually manifest themselves in the heights, inside the treetops. A greater rehabilitation exercise, in this phase of life, in captivity becomes necessary and urgent, both in order to

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improve the management technique and the elaboration of a broader ethogram, as well as ending to reduce the high number of mortality of these orphans and the consequent possibility of releasing young people who are independent and able to develop their skills in the natural habitat.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Brown-throated sloth, Behavior, Infants, Management.

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