

SURVEY OF BRADYPODIDAE AT WILD ANIMAL SORTING CENTER (CETAS-TANGARA), RECIFE, PE, BRAZIL IN 2020

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RESUMO

Bradypus variegatus is an arboreal, folivorous species, and occurs in abundance in Pernambuco, Brazil. Even though they are slow-moving animals, they are able to travel long distances, aiming at feeding, reproduction and social distance. They are frequently referred to the Pernambuco's Wild Animal Sorting Center (CETAS-Tangara, in Recife municipality) by the environmental inspection agencies or locals. These animals have been rescued from houses, highways, electrical poles, among others. The aim of this survey was to pinpoint the main reasons leading to the referral of *B. variegatus* to the CETAS-Tangara. The survey was carried out between January and September 2020. In this period 90 *B. variegatus* were observed, 50% (45/90) required veterinary care and the other 50% (50/90) did not present clinical changes. Among the causes that led to the referral we recorded: accident due to electric shock, 37.77% (17/45); fall, 13.33% (6/45); being run over, 11.11% (5/45); respiratory change, 8.88% (4/45); predation by dogs, 6.66% (3/45); dental fistula, 4.44% (2/45); very weakened, 4.44% (2/45) and other causes 11.11% (6/45). That included situations less frequently: bone fracture; bruises; oil soaked; waterlogged; burned; and with fungal dermatitis. As for the destinations of the 90 animals: release, 58.88% (53/90); death, 27.77% (25/90); rehabilitation, 6.66% (6/90); and euthanasia, 6.66% (6/90). The highest number of entries was observed during September (28 animals) and August (16 animals), and the lowest was in June (a single animal was referred). The period with higher number of records coincides with the reproductive season of the species, from August to March and the dry season in the region. High temperatures allow the reproduction of these animals, which are poikilothermic. The release rate in this period was higher compared to that of deaths, possibly due to the larger number of displacements, likely related to increased movement due to the breeding season; the animals apprehended were healthy or less frequently injured. Deforestation in peri and urban regions exacerbates the species vulnerability to human actions and accidents. One of the main causes of accidents for this species was the high voltage wires, used by animals as a support to move, leading to violent shocks that cause burns, amputations and death. Even though the clinical casuistry was varied, cases of accidental electric shocks have been one of the biggest concerns in the commitment to the conservation of the species in the region. In order to curb these threatening indices, an elaboration of a program aimed at raising the awareness of electric energy suppliers is already

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underway, in order to manage isolation mechanisms of the high voltage overhead lines. The program also aims raising the awareness of the local community to provide care and protection while these animals are crossing highways; and above all, dissemination of scientific knowledge about the species to the population.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Brown-throated sloth, Wild animal sorting center, Xenarthrans.