

## ANTHROPOGENIC INFLUENCE ON

FOREST CANOPIES

October 24-27

**ABSTRACTS** 

### 6th International Canopy Conference

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#### Oaxaca City, Mexico

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#### **ABSTRACTS**

#### DOES TREE STRUCTURE AFFECT THE SPATIAL PROXIMITY OF SPIDER MONKEYS DURING FORAGING?

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Feeding competition depends on spatial proximity between foraging individuals, which could in turn depend on the structure of foraging patches. We explore this possibility using scan samples of subgroups of spider monkeys (N = 584 samples) foraging on six different species of trees that differ in their structure. We estimated spatial proximity as the distance separating the two farthermost individuals in the subgroup (dispersion), and as the mean inter-individual distance for all individuals in the subgroup (mean distance). A one-way ANOVA showed significant differences in both measures of spatial proximity (dispersion: F = 6.3, p = 0.000; mean distance: F = 4.4, p = 0.001). Results of the post-hoc Tukey test showed no difference between the size of subgroups foraging on Enterolobium cyclocarpum than those foraging on the rest of species. However, we found spatial proximity to be lower in E. cyclocarpum than on Ficus spp. (dispersion: T = 14.4, p = 0.001; mean distance: T = 7.8, p = 0.001) and higher in Brosimum alicastrum (T = 11.6, p = 0.007). Spatial proximity on Guazuma ulmifolia trees does not differ from that on other species, while in Oxandra lanceolata only subgroup dispersion was significantly higher than that observed in Ficus spp. (T = 5.6, p = 0.043) in spite of having similar sized subgroups (T = 0.788, p = 0.124). These results suggest that spatial proximity could be lower in trees with open canopies, although it remains to be explained why subgroups are more cohesive in Ficus spp. than in Brosimum. Also, it is necessary to consider quantitative measures of canopy structure. CONACyT J51278 - Instituto Politécnico Nacional.