

El Colegio de la Frontera Sur

Variabilidad estructural de los ensambles de arañas y opiliones en un bosque mesófilo de montaña en la Reserva de la Biosfera El Triunfo, Chiapas.

TESIS

Presentada como requisito parcial para optar al grado de Maestría en Ciencias en Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural

por

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Dedicatoria y agradecimientos

A mi esposa e hijo que fueron mi fuerza y mi aliento en esta etapa de mi vida.

A todos aquellos que pusieron un granito de arena para fortalecer mi aprendizaje.

Y al cosmos por permitirnos ser un medio para conocerse a sí mismo.

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Introducción

El bosque mesófilo de montaña (BMM) es el ecosistema que presenta mayor diversidad biológica por unidad de área (Alcántara y Luna, 1997) y uno de los ecosistemas más amenazados por las actividades humanas (Rzedowski, 1996; CONABIO, 2010). El BMM son un grupo de comunidades forestales bastante heterogeneas que incluyen bosques altos, medianos y bajos, tanto perenifolios como caducifolios. Sin embargo, se caracterizan por compartir una gran diversidad de hepifitas, leñosas trepadoras y helechos (Pérez Farrera, Tejada Cruz y Silva Rivera, 2010). Este conjunto de comunidades vegetales ha presentado una elevada proporción de endemismos que ocila entre el 30 y 60 %, albergando paleotaxa endémicos con distribución restringida (Rzedowski, 1996; CONABIO, 2010; Ibarra-Nuñez, Maya-Morales y Chamé-Vazquez, 2011). Además, estos bosques continúan siendo actualmente fuente de especies nuevas para la ciencia (Kohlmann, 2000; Warren y De la Maza, 2011).

Los BMM pueden encontrarse desde los 300 a los 4000 msnm y se cree que su presencia depende de la ocurrencia de nubes con cierta frecuencia, periodicidad o regularidad (Pérez Farrera, Tejada Cruz y Silva Rivera, 2010). En México el BMM se ubica desde Nuevo León y Tamaulipas hasta Chiapas, ocupando entre el 0.8 y 0.9% de la superficie del territorio nacional (Williams-Linera, 2007). La mayor área cubierta por el BMM se encuentra en el estado de Chiapas (CONABIO, 2010), aun cuando en los últimos 30 años se ha perdido cerca del 78% de su cobertura original (Solórzano y Oyama, 2002). En Chiapas se ubican principalmente en la sierra madre de Chiapas, y se encuentran protegidos dentro de un complejo de Areas Naturales Protegidas (ANP) tanto estatales como federales. La Reserva de la biosfera el Triunfo es la reserva más importante por

presentar uno de los continuos de bosque mesófilo de montaña mas conservado de la región (Pérez Farrera, Tejada Cruz y Silva Rivera, 2010).

Las arañas y opiliones son participantes importantes en las redes tróficas de diversos ecosistemas, como depredadores de otros artrópodos o como presas (para aves, lagartijas y pequeños mamíferos) en los ciclos de nutrientes del suelo (Foelix, 2011; Bultman y DeWitt, 2007; Curtis y Machado, 2007; Acosta y Machado, 2007; Cokendolpher y Mitov, 2007). No obstante, en México la diversidad de arañas en BMM ha sido poco estudiada con respecto a otros ecosistemas (Ibarra-Núñez, Maya-Morales y Chamé-Vazquez, 2011; Campuzano-Granados, 2014) mientras que los estudios de opiliones en BMM son casi inexistentes (Curtis y Machado, 2007; Burns, Hunter y Townsend, 2007), a pesar que ambos grupos han sido considerados adecuados para estudios ecológico por ser relativamente diversos y presentar altas abundancias en casi todos los ecosistemas (Curtis y Machado, 2007; Foelix, 2011). Otra característica importante que presentan estos grupos es que son fuertemente influenciados por la variación en la estructura de las comunidades vegetales, la dinámica del ecosistema, factores ambientales (temperatura y humedad; Mcdonald, 2007; Curtis y Machado, 2007), así como cambios provocados por el hombre (Prieto-Benítez y Méndez, 2011; Machado, Pinto-da-Rocha y Giribet, 2007; Curtis y Machado, 2007).

Las arañas han sido consideradas como factor importante en la estabilidad de las poblaciones de insectos y han mostrado cambios en su diversidad y abundancia como respuesta al uso del suelo y contaminantes (Foelix, 2011; Prieto-Benítez y Méndez, 2011; Maelfait et al., 2002). Mientras que los opiliones por su alta cantidad de endemismos, su reducida movilidad y su marcada respuesta a cambios de temperatura y humedad

(Cokendolpher, MacKay y Muma, 1993; Kury y Cokendolpher, 2000; Todd, 1949; Edgar, 1971) son considerados buenos elementos para estudios ecológicos. Todas las características antes enfatizadas, junto a la dinámica dentro de la comunidad (como depredación y competencia por espacio y alimento; Burns, Hunter y Townsend, 2007; Schmitz, 2008; Proud et al., 2012) pueden llevar a estos arácnidos a mostrar patrones específicos en la estructura de los ensambles. Son dichos patrones (junto con la riqueza de especies de cada grupo) de importancia para estudios de conservación y evaluación de disturbios antrópicos.

El objetivo de esta investigación fue estudiar las variaciones en riqueza, abundancia y composición de los ensambles de arañas y de los opiliones del suelo del BMM y la posible relación que guardan las variaciones en estructura y composición de especies con algunos factores ambientales. Sin embargo, se dió mayor profundidad a los análisis de los resultados de los opiliones para la escritura y envío del artículo requisitado para la defensa de la tesis, por ser el grupo menos considerado en estudios de diversidad mexicana.

Capítulo 1. Variabilidad estructural de los ensambles de opiliones (Arachnida:

Opiliones) del suelo en un Bosque Mesófilo de Montaña de Chiapas, México.



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Sincerely yours, Rick

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1	Running head
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2 GOMEZ-RODRIGUEZ ET AL.-STRUCTURAL VARIABILITY OF HARVESTMEN

3

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13 Structural variability of harvestmen (Arachnida: Opiliones) assemblages in a cloud forest from

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21 Abstract:

22 Harvestmen (Arachnida, Opiliones) is a group of species considered suitable for ecological 23 studies given its relatively high abundance and diversity in many terrestrial ecosystems. Here, we 24 report changes on the abundance and diversity of a harvestmen assemblages during the rainy and 25 dry seasons in a cloud forest in Chiapas, Mexico. Temperature, relative humidity, tree diversity 26 and abundance, and number of fallen logs were recorded as potential explanatory variables. 27 Overall, we collected 2,732 specimens that were grouped into 7 families, 13 genera and 17 28 morphospecies. *Metopilio* sp1, was the most abundant species, accounting for 85.3% of all 29 specimens; four species were constant: Metopilio sp2, Heterovonones cf. incrasatus, Vonones cf. 30 *circumlineatus* and *Parageaya* sp1 and the remaining species had very low abundances. Tree 31 composition was found to be widely different among sampling transects; however, only 32 *Metopilio* sp1 abundance was positively correlated to number of fallen logs and to abundance of 33 one standing tree species (Amphitecna montana). Both abundance and diversity of harvestmen 34 were higher in the dry season than in rainy season; actually temperature and humidity had a 35 significant effect upon them. Finally, we found that complex interactions among time, 36 temperature and humidity affected the abundance of *Metopilio* sp1. Our study showed that 37 dynamics of harvestmen populations in a cloud forest in Mexico have temporal and spatial 38 conspicuous patterns that might be useful in arthropod conservation programs; however, it is 39 necessary to consider biological factors as potential variables that shape harvestmen populations 40 in future investigations.

41 Key words:

42 Acropsopilio, Trilasma, diversity, environmental heterogeneity, temporal variation

43

INTRODUCTION

Species composition of arthropod communities is naturally linked to their physical and living
environment (Perner et al. 2005). Typical patterns in diversity and abundance of these animals
appear over time, as season's progress. Describing these patterns could help to distinguish
natural variation in an animal community from those patterns that arise as result of human
disturbance.

49 Harvestmen (Arachnida: Opiliones) is a group of arthropods that includes species that use a 50 broad range of food sources (some are even considered omnivorous), which implies that they can 51 be found in a variety of terrestrial ecosystems (Curtis and Machado 2007). Such diversity is 52 originated by several biological and behavioral adaptations that Opiliones have. For example, 53 vertical migration between the ground and the understory due to changes in microhabitat 54 selection during growing or daily migration in response to light, temperature and humid, which 55 makes them appropriate for biological and ecological studies (Todd 1949; Morse 2001; Burns et 56 al. 2007; Chelini et al. 2012; Grether et al. 2014).

57 Harvestmen might potentially serve as indicators of ecosystem disturbance, since their guilds 58 have been characterized as heavily dominant species (Curtis and Machado 2007) and by multi-59 species aggregations (Machado and Vasconcelos 1998; Chelini et al. 2012). These characteristics 60 and the high proportion of endemism (Kury and Cokendolpher 2000) could promote spatial and 61 temporal patterns in the structure of harvestmen communities. These patterns could be fostered 62 by environmental factors (e.g., structural variation of plant communities and abiotic factors as 63 temperature and humidity) or by biological interactions (e.g., predation and competition for food 64 and space with other harvestmen species). Identify and explain these patterns in harvestmen 65 communities are essential for understanding their importance in ecosystems.

66 Some authors have studied changes in harvestmen assemblage's structure along vertical 67 gradients between the ground and the understory (Almeida-Neto et al. 2006; Chatzaki et al. 68 2009; Proud et al. 2011), along time in an apple orchard (Pekár 2003), across different vegetation 69 types (Mitov and Stoyanov 2005) and along the succession process of a forest (Proud et al. 70 2012). The influence of temperature and humidity changes on harvestmen survival in laboratory 71 were studied by Todd (1949) and Edgar (1971) who described humidity preferences and 72 reactions to different temperature ranges for different harvestmen species, including temperature 73 death-point. Later Adams (1984) found that differences in structure of litter layers can influence 74 the presence of distinct species. Most of the works on Mexican harvestmen species have focused 75 on describing their diversity and taxonomy (Kury and Cokendolpher 2000), few of them 76 described their ecology (Goodnight and Goodnight 1953), but knowledge of their adaptations to 77 different ecosystems (Curtis and Machado 2007) is still limited. In this study, we asked the 78 following question: temporal variation in assemblage structure (i.e. the variation in the 79 abundances of all species that form an assemblage) could be explained by variation in 80 environmental characteristics and/or geographical location. To answer this question we carried 81 out the present work to gather data that could allow us (1) to know the diversity of ground 82 harvestmen in a cloud forest in Mexico, (2) to describe changes in abundance and diversity of 83 ground harvestmen assemblages during the dry and the rainy season and (3) to determine if 84 factors like temperature, humidity, tree diversity/abundance and number of fallen logs potentially 85 affect harvestmen diversity and abundance.

86

METHODS

87 Study area.- The study was carried out in the Biosphere Reserve El Triunfo, in the Sierra
88 Madre de Chiapas, Mexico (Fig 1), which altitudinal gradient permits the presence of tropical

vegetation and oak and pine forests. The largest area of conserved cloud forest in the Mexican
southeast region can be found within our study site (Pérez-Farrera et al. 2012). Core area I of El
Triunfo (camp "Polígono I": -92.808°, 15.656°, T01: -92.811°O, 15.648°, T10: -92.805°,
15.663°, 1900 masl), comprises a continuous cloud forest around the camp. Climate is humid
temperate with heavy rainfalls in summer, an annual mean rainfall of 2500 - 4500mm and an
annual mean temperature of 12° - 18°C, but low of -3°C in December and January (García 1987;
INE and SEMARNAP 1998).

96 **Sampling.-** Ten transects (40 x 16 m), were established from South to North, with a 97 minimum separation of 70 m among them, so they included slopped and flat ground (Fig 1). 98 Sampling design followed methodologies proposed for harvestmen (Curtis 2007; Băncilă and 99 Plăiașu 2009; Sabu et al. 2011). Sampling of harvestmen was carried out during the dry 100 (February, March, April) and the rainy seasons (June, July and August). Harvestmen were 101 collected using pitfall traps, made of plastic containers 10.8 cm diameter, each with 200 ml of a 102 50% propylene-glycol and 50% water solution. Eight traps were laid out in pairs each 10 m at 103 each transect and left 72 hours. Next, specimens were recovered, transported, separated, labeled 104 and stored in the laboratory in vials with 96% ethanol. Specimens were identified under a 105 stereomicroscope using specialized literature (Goodnight and Goodnight 1953; Kury and 106 Cokendolpher 2000; Kury 2003; Pinto-da-Rocha and Giribet 2007). All collected specimens 107 were deposited at the Colección de Arácnidos del Sureste de México (ECOTAAR) of El Colegio 108 de la Frontera Sur, Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico.

Environmental and biotic variables.- Temperature and humidity were recorded in all
transects during the rainy season, but only for two transect during the dry season due to logistic
problems. Following vegetation variables were measured in all transects: [1] Tree species

composition and abundance as an indirect measure of litter structure, assuming that litter
characteristics depend on these trees characteristics (Edgar 1971; Makkonen et al. 2012). [2]
Number of fallen trees is used as shelter by some harvestmen species (Proud et al. 2011) because
add structural complexity to the ground (Carroll 1996). [3] Canopy coverage, for its effects on
ground exposure to light, rain and wind.

Temperature and humidity were recorded with a data logger. Abundance and composition of tree species, and number of fallen logs were recorded inside each transect at the end in 40 x10 m plots (Williams-Linera 1991). Canopy coverage was recorded using a digital camera (8 pictures per transect) at the end of each season (Korhonen and Heikkinen 2009). These images were analyzed with software package (MATLAB 8.01) to obtain canopy cover percentages.

122 Data analysis.- Harvestmen diversity: Species richness estimations and species 123 accumulation curves were performed using EstimateS 9.1 program (Colwell 2013), then 124 completeness values were computed from observed versus estimated richness for Chao1 and 125 ACE estimators. For species richness comparisons, two approaches to estimate rarefaction 126 curves were applied: Coleman rarefaction curves and Hill number-based rarefaction curves 127 (Gotelli and Colwell 2001; Colwell et al. 2012; Chao et al. 2014; Hsieh et al. 2014). We 128 undertake both approaches because they use different methods to represent diversity 129 accumulation curves and distinct procedures to obtain unconditional variance (Chao et al. 2014). 130 A plot of harvestmen abundance versus frequency was elaborated to classify species as following 131 categories: dominant (about 10% of relative abundance each time), constant (under 10% of 132 relative abundance each time), temporal (about 10% of relative abundance and under 50% of 133 frequencies) and rare (neither abundant, neither frequent). Limits among categories were fixed

with 50% of relative frequencies and 10% of relative abundance (Curtis and Machado 2007;Maya-Morales et al. 2011).

136 *Composition and structure:* To analyze tree and harvestmen assemblages' structure for temporal 137 (month and season) and spatial (slopes and transects) changes, Non-Metric Multidimensional 138 Scaling (NMDS) was applied to pairwise abundance-based Bray-Curtis, (abBC) similarity index 139 values (Faith et al. 1987; Zuur et al. 2007). To test the null hypothesis of no difference among 140 comparison levels in harvestmen species structure, a Monte Carlo random test of Permutational 141 Multivariate Analysis of variance (PERMANOVA) was applied to pairwise abundance-based 142 (Bray-Curtis) and presence/absence-based Kulczynski (pbK) similarity index values. NMDS and 143 PERMANOVA tests were performed with PRIMER (Anderson 2001; Clarke and Gorley 2006; 144 Anderson and Walsh 2013). Tree structure was analyzed with NMDS applied to abBC similarity 145 index values (Faith et al. 1987; Zuur et al. 2007). Coverage data were fitted to a linear model regression, and transects were compared with orthogonal contrasts. 146 147 *Environmental factors variability*: Temperature and humidity variables were fitted with 148 generalized least squares model for correlated data and comparisons were done with orthogonal 149 contrasts. Both analysis were carried out with R program (Fox 2005; Pinheiro et al. 2014; R Core 150 Team 2014). To analyze a possible correlation of harvestmen's abundance and richness with 151 fallen logs number and abundance of trees for each transect, we performed a Pearson correlation 152 test for normalized abundance data (with squared root) and Spearman correlation for non-normal 153 data (Fox 2005; R Core Team 2014). For correlation analysis, missing temperature and humidity 154 data from the dry season (mean per month) were estimated with the Multiple Iterative Regression 155 Imputation package for R program (Su et al. 2011). The correlation of dominants species with 156 temperature and humidity between months (as repeated measurements) was modeled with mixed

models and ANOVA was applied. This model following the Akaike Information Criterion,
performed with R program packages (Fox 2005; Zuur et al. 2007; Pinheiro et al. 2014; R Core
Team 2014). Also, Chord similarity distance-based Redundancy Analysis (dbRDA) was
performed in PRIMER to analyze a possible correlation of response variables (species) with
possible explanatory variables, two are continuous (temperature and humidity) and three are
nominal variables (month, slopes and transects; (Zuur et al. 2007).

163

RESULTS

Harvestmen diversity and structure.- We collected 2,732 specimens (36.5% females, 29%
males and 34.3% immatures), which represent 7 families, 13 genera and 17 morphospecies
(Table 1). Almost 75% of specimens (grouped into 10 species). They were caught during dry
season and the rest specimens (grouped into 17 species) during rainy season (Fig. 5). For
statistical analyses were excluding 90 unidentified immature specimens (83 sclerosomatids and 7
cosmetids).

Metopilio sp1 was the dominant species with 85% of all specimens. Four species were constant
(*Metopilio* sp2, *Heterovonones* sp. cf. *incrasatus*, *Vonones* sp. cf. *circumlineatus* and *Parageaya*sp1) and the others species were rare (Fig. 6). *Metopilio* sp1 drove the assemblage structure for
each month, with its highest abundance peak (74% juveniles) in February, and was decreasing
monthly, with a peak of females (61%) in March and other peak of males (65%) in June (Figs. 5
and 7). Harvestmen abundance along whole sampling did not differ apparently among transects,

176 but higher abundances of *Metopilio* sp1 were registered in transects 4, 5, 7 and 8.

177 Concerning the sampling efficiency, the estimated accumulation curves for the whole sampling

178 attained the asymptote, with general completeness values of 97.1% and 94.2% for Chao1 and

179 ACE estimators respectively, with 11.8% of singletons. For the South slope completeness values

were 80.3% Chao1 and 80.7% ACE, and for the North slope 83.3% Chao1 and 85.4% ACE, with
33 and 25% of singletons respectively. The dry season reached a completeness value of 50.0%
for both estimators, while in the rainy season were 48.6% Chao1 and 68.6% ACE, with 50 and
35.7% of singletons respectively.

184 **Tree composition and coverage.** Vegetation NMDS showed a large dispersion of 185 transects (Fig. 2), with abBC similarity no more than 66%, showing a wide heterogeneity. 186 Transect 1, dominated by Spathacanthus hahnianus Baill (Acanthaceae Juss), was very different 187 to all transect. Transects 6 and 10, dominated by Matudaea trinervia Lundell (Hamamelidaceae 188 R. Br.), were the most similar between them with 65%, followed by transects 7 and 8, dominated 189 by Ardisia compressa Kunth (Primulaceae Batsch x Borkh) with 55%, and transects 2 and 3, 190 with high trees, mostly Quercus spp. (Fagaceae Dumort), with 46%. The rest of transects 191 displayed a clearly distinct structure with different dominant species, Amphitecna montana L.O. 192 Williams (Bignoniaceae Juss) for transect 4, Matudaea trinervia and Quercus spp. for transect 5, 193 and *Cinnamomum* spp. (Lauraceae Juss) and *Quercus* spp. for transect 9. Canopy coverage 194 between transects for each season were not significant different. However, the North slope 195 displayed a significant difference between seasons (F = 20.445; p < 0.0001), with higher canopy 196 coverage during rainy season.

197Environmental factors.- Temperature (F=11.65; p=<0.0001) and humidity (F=32.19;198p=<0.0001) during rainy season were different among months, but few transects displayed slight</td>199difference in temperature (transect 1 differed from transects 4, 5 and 10). Temperature increase200from transects 1 to 5 (South slope) and decrease from June to August (Fig. 3), while humidity201displayed a markedly pattern of dispersion from June to August and a diffuse pattern between202transects (where transects 1, 4, 7, 8, 9 showed a relative shorter dispersion ranges; Fig. 4).

Richness clearly differed between seasons (higher during rainy than during dry season with both
Coleman and Hill number-based rarefaction curves), among some transects (1 vs 2, 3, 5, 6 and
10 only with Hill number-based rarefaction curves) and marginally between slopes (only with
Hill number-based rarefaction curves, see Table 1 and Fig. 8). All Hill number-based rarefaction
curves display sample coverages greater than 98%.

Harvestmen assemblages' species composition differed among months and between slopes, but neither between seasons nor among transects (PERMANOVA of pbK similarity, Table 2). Assemblages' structure of harvestmen changed along months and seasons, but neither between slopes nor among transects (PERMANOVA and NMDS of abBC similarity, Table 2, Figs. 5 and 9), and spearman correlation revealed an important contribution from *Metopilio* sp1 (r_s =0.9) to this changes.

214 Environmental influence on harvestmen assemblages.- There was no relation between 215 fallen logs number and harvestmen richness (correlation test r=0.1; p=0.6). Nevertheless, there 216 were positive relations of *Metopilio* sp1 abundance with fallen logs number (correlation test 217 r=0.68; p=0.02), abundance of Amphitecna montana (r_s=0.86; p=0.001), months (ANOVA of 218 mixed effects model F=112.263; p < 0.0001), and as interactions across months with temperature 219 (ANOVA F=13.494; p=0.019) and humidity (ANOVA F=12.955; p=0.023) (Table 3). On the 220 other side, relative humidity seems to have a negative influence on *Metopilio* sp1 abundance, as 221 shown by Chord similarity dbRDA analysis (Fig 10, Tables 4 and 5). However, the variability 222 explained by all the included factors, represented only 21% of total variability (Table 5).

223

DISCUSSION

In this study, we aimed to find potential abiotic and biotic factors that determine harvestmenassemblages in a cloud forest in Chiapas, Mexico. Tree composition resulted very heterogeneous

across transects, even though the study area was relatively small. However, the cloud forest

studied has higher tree diversity than expected, but this was not related to changes on harvestmen

assemblages. Canopy coverage changed only in one slope, but we could not find any association

- 229 with either harvestmen presence or abundance.
- 230 We found a high diversity (17 morphospecies) of harvestmen in our study area in comparison
- with temperate regions (generally < 10 species) and open habitats (< 8 species; Curtis and

232 Machado 2007). Species richness found was lower than other tropical areas (Curtis and

233 Machado, 2007). However, considering its altitude is higher in comparison to Brazil (1000m

altitude; Almeida-Neto et al. 2006) and Greece (Chatzaki et al. 2009), although there is a

235 possible effect of latitudinal differences (Mittelbach et al. 2007).

236 Cokendolpher et al. (1993) found high abundance of a *Metopilio* species in the highest elevation

of a mountain range (about 61% at 2440 m asl) in New Mexico, decreasing at intermediate and

lower elevations (about 39% at 2100 m asl and 15% at 1800 m asl). In concordance with this, in

a Costa Rican rain forest (35-150 m asl) Proud et al. (2012) found Metopilio ornatipes

representing only 5% of total harvestmen abundance. So, it seems that *Metopilio* spp. abundance

tend to increase with high altitude. In this study (with 85%) is within high-abundance category.

As our results showed, *Metopilio* sp1 was a markedly dominant species that drove the

assemblage structure. For this reason, hereafter the emphasis was made to discuss the

environmental factors that could explain the variation of this species.

245 Metopilio sp1 phenological pattern (Fig 7) was similar to other Metopilio species from New

246 Mexico (Cokendolpher et al. 1993) where most of its activity was from June to October,

revealing similar but asynchronous life cycles, possibly due to climatic differences between both

areas.

249 There are evidences that some ecophysiological factors (as osmoregulation, biological rhythms 250 or light sensibility) can drive abundance of harvestmen species (Curtis and Machado 2007; 251 Santos 2007). These physiological characteristics can be a key to understand *Metopilio* sp1 252 population cycle. For example, the eggs of *Phalangium opilio* (genus closer to Metopilio) are 253 more tolerant to low temperatures than adults (Bachmann and Schaefer 1983; Santos 2007). This 254 could explain why juveniles of *Metopilio* sp1 were more abundant in February than in the 255 subsequent warmer months. Our results point to another possible factor, with a negative response 256 of adult abundance related with increasing of humidity during rainy months (July to August; 257 Table 4 and Fig. 10).

258 *Metopilio* sp1 abundance reported an interaction of humidity and temperature along time, 259 displaying results in concordance with those found by Todd (1949) and Edgar (1971), who 260 demonstrated the importance of these variables in their temporal abundance and distribution. 261 Furthermore, our results showed evidence of spatial changes associating the Metopilio sp1 262 abundance to temperature and humidity. This observations can be related with a trend found for 263 temperature, and a dispersion pattern showed for humidity (Figs. 3 and 4), that could be 264 explained because each slope orientation expose them to different winds that influence 265 temperature and humidity, as transects with higher abundances of *Metopilio* sp1 were at low 266 elevation (transects 4, 5, 7 and 8).

A positive correlation of *Metopilio* sp1 abundance with *Amphictena montana* abundance, suggest
that the litter structure layers formed with the fallen leaves of this species could favor the *Meteopilio* sp1 presence as observed by Adams (1984) with other species. Although our spatial
sample was small and will require other experimental tests. On other side, the number of fallen
logs showed a relation with abundance of *Metopilio* sp1, suggesting that more structure on

ground favor refuges availability (Proud et al. 2011, 2012) for this species. However, this notresulted significative to explain harvestmen richness.

274 The difference in harvestmen composition between slopes could be related to their differences in

temperature, humidity and probably to exposure to winds (Todd 1949; Edgar 1971). This

276 difference may attribute to fine changes in other environmental characteristics (Adams 1984;

277 Mitov and Stoyanov 2005), low vagility of harvestmen (Morales Soto 1980) or other

278 interspecific interactions as predation and competition for food and space (Acosta and Machado

279 2007; Cokendolpher and Mitov 2007). Further studies will conduct to know which of these

280 interactions are more important.

Though environmental factors influence spatial and temporality distribution of harvestmen, it is necessary consider other possible influence factors as levels of primary productivity, competitive interactions or populations' processes (Carroll 1996). This highlight the need to study other topics of harvestmen biology, as they can contribute to understanding of their ecology.

285

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425 Table 1. Abundance of the species collected in the cloud forest of El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve

Suborder EUPNOI Metopilio Group Metopilio sp1 Metopilio sp2 Sclerosomatidae Parageaya sp1 Parageaya sp2 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilarma sp	1413 55 13	910 72	2323
Metopilio Group Metopilio sp1 Metopilio sp2 Sclerosomatidae Parageaya sp1 Parageaya sp2 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	1413 55 13	910 72	2323
Metopilio sp1 Metopilio sp2 Sclerosomatidae Parageaya sp1 Parageaya sp2 Prionostema sp1 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	1413 55 13	910 72	2323
Metopilio sp2 Sclerosomatidae Parageaya sp1 Parageaya sp2 Prionostema sp1 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	55 13	72	107
Sclerosomatidae Parageaya sp1 Parageaya sp2 Prionostema sp1 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	13		127
Parageaya sp1 Parageaya sp2 Prionostema sp1 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae*	13		
Parageaya sp2 Prionostema sp1 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	10	13	26
Prionostema sp1 Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	1	5	6
Prionostema sp3 Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae*	5	6	11
Morfotipo 1 Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae*	1		1
Not identify Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	1	2	3
Caddidae Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	19	64	83
Acropsopilio sp Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp			
Suborder DYSPNOI Nemastomatidae* Trilasma sp	1		1
Nemastomatidae*			
Trilasma sp			
	2		2
Suborder LANIATORES			
Cosmetidae			
<i>Heterovonones</i> cf. <i>incrassatus</i> (Pickard-Cambridge, 1904)	35	34	69
Eucynorta cf. albipustulata Roewer, 1912	5	1	6
Vonones cf. circumlineatus Goodnight & Goodnight, 1953	44		44
Vonones sp2	3	10	13
Paecilaema sp	4		4
Not identify	6	1	7
Stygnopsidae			
Paramitraceras sp	1	1	2
Biantidae			
Stygnomma cf. planum Goodnight & Goodnight. 1953	2		2
Stygnomma cf. bispinatum Goodnight & Goodnight. 1953			~
Total abundance	2		2
Species richness	2 1613	1119	2 2732

426 at South (SS) and North slope (NS). [*] first record of this family for Chiapas.

427

429	Table 2. P values of PERMANC	VA Monte Carlo test for harvestmen	abundance-based Bray-Curtis and
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	Season	Month	Slope	Transects
p (mct) / Bray-Curtis	0.04	0.001	0.31	0.24
p (mct) / Kulczynski	0.19	0.001	0.03	0.12

430 presence/absence-based Kulczynski similarity for season, month, slope and transects comparison.

434	Table 3. P values of ANOVA of mixed effects model for Metopilio sp1	abundance as response to
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435 humidity and temperature.

	Chi squared	Df	p value
Month	112.2631	5	<2.00E-16***
Mean temperature	1.9375	1	0.16394
Mean humidity	0.0135	1	0.90754
Month* Mean temperature	13.4943	5	0.01916*
month* Mean humidity	12.9551	5	0.0238*
Mean temperature * Mean humidity	0.0254	1	0.87348
month* Mean temperature * Mean humidity	3.7146	5	0.59119

	% explained van m	riation out of fitted odel	% explained variation out of total variation			
Axis	Individual	Cumulative	Individual	Cumulative		
1	43.18	43.18	12.47	12.47		
2	32.02	75.21	9.25	21.71		

Table 4. *Metopilio* sp1 dbRDA percentage of variation explained by individual axes.

441 Table 5. *Metopilio* sp1 importance values of five principal factors on each dbRDA coordinate axes (MT,

mean temperature, MH, mean numidity, 10110, transects, South and North, stopes)	442	mean temperature; MH	, mean humidity;	Т01Т10,	transects; South	and North,	slopes).
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Variable	dbRDA1	Variable	dbRDA2		
MH	-0.599	T02	0.56		
T02	-0.407	North	-0.326		
T04	0.358	South	0.326		
MT	-0.311	Aug	0.308		
T08	0.251	MŤ	-0.141		

445 Figure legends

- 446 Figure 1. Location of sampling transects around of camp in core area I of the Biosphere Reserve447 "El Triunfo" (Chiapas, Mexico).
- 448 Figure 2. Non-Metric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) of pairwise abundance-based Bray-
- 449 Curtis similarity of tree abundance and composition of cloud forest in the Biosphere Reserve "El450 Triunfo".
- 451 Figure 3. Mean diary temperature for each transect (left graph) showing a trend that provability
- 452 is response to slope exposure to winds, and mean diary temperature for each month (right graph)
- 453 decreasing more into rainy season.
- 454 Figure 4. Mean diary humidity for each transect (left graph) showing transect four (riparian site)
- 455 as wetter, and mean diary humidity for each month (right graph) showed a trend of dispersion,
- 456 may be effect of the canicula.
- 457 Figure 5. Relative proportion of each harvestmen species and their total abundance per month.
- 458 *Metopilio* sp1 (Met_sp1), *Metopilio* sp2 (Met_sp2), *Parageaya* sp1 (Pge_sp1), *Parageaya* sp2
- 459 (Pge_sp2), Prionostemma sp3 (Pri_sp3), Heterovonones cf. incrassatus (Hvo_cf.inc) and
- 460 *Vonones* cf. *circumlineatus* (Von_cf.cir), ten species (Other spp).
- 461 Figure 6. Abundance-frequency of harvestmen species: *Metopilio* sp1 (Met_sp1), *Metopilio* sp2
- 462 (Met_sp2), Heterovonones cf. incrassatus (Hvo_cf.in), Vonones cf. circumlineatus (Von_cf.cir)
- 463 and *Parageaya* sp1 (Pge_sp1), and 12 species rare.
- 464 Figure 7. Abundance per month of *Metopilio* sp1 by age and sex categories showed in whole465 sample.

467	curves (right) of seasons (up) and slopes (middle). Bottom plots are rarefaction values (with
468	corresponding 95% confidence intervals) for each transect, at same abundance value to compare.
469	Figure 9. Non-Metric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) with pairwise abundance-based Bray-
470	Curtis similarity of harvestmen abundance and composition of cloud forest in the Biosphere
471	Reserve "El Triunfo".
472	Figure 10. Chord similarity dbRDA, displaying variables that explained most of the variability
473	(MT, mean temperature; MH, mean humidity; T02T10, transects; South and North slopes) and
474	the harvestmen species that responded to these variables (Met_sp1 and 2, Metopilio spp; Pri_sp1,
475	Prionostemma sp1; Hvo_cf.inc, Heterovonones cf. incrasatus; Von_cf.cir, Vonones cf.
476	circumlineatus; Von_sp, Vonones sp).
477	

Figure 8. Harvestmen's Coleman rarefaction curves (left) and Hill number (q0) rarefaction









481 Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



490 Figure 5.











496 Figure 7.

















Capítulo 2. Análisis de la diversidad de arañas del suelo del Bosque Mesófilo de Montaña de la reserva de la Biosfera El Triunfo, México.

Introducción

Las arañas son un componente importante de casi todos los ecosistemas del planeta (Foelix, 2011) y han sido consideradas como indicadoras de disturbio (Ibarra-Núñez y Chamé-Vazquez, 2009; Maya-Morales et al., 2012; Prieto-Benítez y Méndez, 2011). Sin embargo, aún se conoce poco de las arañas del suelo de los Bosques Mesófilos de Montaña en México (Ibarra-Núñez; Maya-Morales y Chamé-Vázquez, 2011).

Las arañas han resultado tener respuestas rápidas y visibles hacia distintos grados de disturbio, y a la presencia de contaminantes químicos (Maelfait et al., 2002; Bultman y DeWitt, 2007). Algunas especies tienen requerimientos específicos de humedad, alimento, hojarasca, tipo y estructura de vegetación, entre otros. (Maelfait et al., 2002; Mcdonald, 2007; Cramer y Maywright, 2008). Entonces, es de esperarse encontrar una gran variedad de respuestas a los distintos cambios ambientales que se pueden presentar en un sistema natural o artificial, estas variaciones ambientales podrían promover patrones espaciales y temporales en los ensambles de arañas.

Considerando que pudiera existir una variabilidad temporal de los ensambles de arañas se realiza la siguiente pregunta. ¿Puede la variabilidad temporal de los ensambles de arañas ser explicada por variables ambientales? Para esto se midieron algunas variables ambientales que pudieran estar afectando la presencia y abundancia de algunas arañas durante la temporada de estiaje y de lluvias en un BMM de la Reserva de la Biosfera El Triunfo.

Metodología

El estudio fue realizado en la Reserva de la Biosfera El Triunfo ubicado dentro de la Sierra Madre de Chiapas. Siendo esta una de las áreas de BMM mas conservadas de Chiapas (Pérez-Farrera et al. 2012). Se establecieron diez transectos (40 x 16 m) de muestreo, en línea de sur a norte dentro del zona nucleo "El Triunfo" (Poligono I).

Para la colecta de arñas del suelo se utilizaron dos métodos de colecta (Coddington et al., 1991; Silva, 1996), con base en estudios previos (Niemelä, Haila y Punttila, 1996; Baker y Barmuta, 2006; Ibarra-Núñez y Chamé-Vazquez, 2009). El primer método consistió en el establecimiento de ocho trampas pitfall distribuidas a los lados de la línea central de cada transecto. Estas trampas consiten en recipientes de plástico de 1 L enterrados al ras del suelo y rellenados con 200 ml de una solución preservante (50% propilenglicol, 50% agua). Estas trampas eran recogidas a las 72 horas y vaciadas en frascos PET de 250 ml para su traslado a la colección, donde se separaron y pasaron al alcohol al 80%. El segundo método de colecta consistió en colectas de hojarasca, tomando cuatro muestras de aproximadamente 2,500 cm² de área en parcelas de 50 x 50 cm por cada transecto. Las muestras se depositaron individualmente en bolsas de nylon con sus datos de colecta. Posteriormente, las muestras de hojarasca fueron procesadas en el campamento, donde se vaciaba individualmente el contenido de las bolsas en recipientes de plástico para buscar y colectar las arañas con la ayuda de pinzas o tubos aspiradores. Los organismos extraídos se colocaron en un frasco con alcohol al 80%, con sus datos de colecta. Todos los ejemplares fueron determinados a especie con ayuda de claves generales y literatura especializada (Jocqué y Dippenaar-

Schoeman, 2006; Ubick et al., 2005; Miller, 2004) y se registraron como morfo-especies cuando no fue posible ubicarlos taxonómicamente.

Para evaluar la eficiencia del muestreo se estimó la completitud del muestreo con los estimadores Chao1 y ACE, usando EstimateS 9.1 (Colwell, 2013). Se comparó la riqueza de especies entre temporadas y laderas con curvas de rarefacción de Coleman para matrices basadas en individuos (Gotelli y Colwel, 2001; Colwel et al., 2012). Finalmente se realizó un gráfico de abundancia/frecuencia relativa para la separación de las especies en categorías: dominantes, constantes, temporales y raras, tomando como límites entre las categorías el valor del 50% de frecuencias y el 2% de la abundancia total (Maya-Morales et al., 2012).

Se tomaron datos de temperatura y humedad con data-loggers en todos los sitios durante la temporada de lluvia, mientras que solo se tomaron en dos sitios durante la temporada de estiaje por problemas de logística y diseño. Los valores de temperatura y humedad de la temporada de lluvia fueron ajustados a un modelo lineal generalizado de mínimos cuadrados y comparados los sitios con contrastes ortogonales. Los valores perdidos fueron calculados con el paquete de regresión multiple iterativa en R para análisis de correlación (Zuur, Leno y Smith, 2007).

Para analizar los cambios en los ensambles de arañas se aplicó el escalamiento multidimensional no métrico (NMDS) aplicado a una matriz de distancias de Chord (Zuur, Leno y Smith, 2007). La hipótesis nula de no diferencia entre comparaciones se hizo con un Análisis de Varianza de Permutación (PERMANOVA) en el programa PRIMER (Anderson, 2001; Clarke y Gorley, 2006; Anderson y Walsh, 2013). Para

buscar la existencia de relaciones de temperatura y humedad con las abundancias de las arañas más abundantes se realizó un análisis de Redundancia con una matriz base de distancias de similitud de Chord y una prueba de correlacion de Spearman (Zuur, Leno y Smith, 2007).

Resultados

Se colectaron un total de 2,139 ejemplares de arañas representados en 22 familias, 40 géneros y 45 especies, delos cuales 1,014 se colectaron en secas y 1,125 en lluvias. Se encontró una proporción de 25.9% de hembras, 45.4% de machos y 28.5% de juveniles. Del total señalado solamenete 1,910 ejemplares fueron considerados para los análisis, debido a que 229 ejemplares juveniles no se pudieron ubicar taxonómicamente (Cuadro 1). La completitud del muestreo fue de 87.5% para Chao1 y de 77.3% para ACE, siendo valores bastante altos para muestreos en zonas de alta diversidad (Coddington et al., 2009), como se consideran los BMM (Rzedowski, 1996). Las familias más abundantes fueron Linyphiidae, Zodariidae, Phrurolitidae, Agelenidae y Oonopidae, de las cuales la familia más diversa fue Linyphiidae (Cuadro 1). Sin embargo, la gran mayoría de las familias restantes fue representada únicamente por una especie o un género. La gráfica de abundancia versus frecuencia reveló ocho especies dentro de la categoría de dominantes, 12 especies constantes y el resto como especies raras (Figura 1). Mientras que las comparaciones de riqueza entre temporadas y laderas no mostraron diferencia alguna (Figura 2).

El análisis NMDS no mostró ninguna agrupación aparente entre meses, temporadas o transectos (Figura 3). De igual manera, el análisis de similitud permutacional no calculó ninguna diferencia significativa entre los transectos.

Por su parte, la temperatura y humedad fueron notablemente distintas entre meses (*F*=11.65; *p*=<0.0001 y *F*=32.19; *p*=<0.0001 respectivamente), pero con pocas diferencias entre transectos (T01 diferente al T04, T05 y T10; *p*=<0.0009, *p*=<0.0001 y *p*=<0.0001, respectivamente). Finalmente los análisis de Redundancia mostraron evidencia de una relación positiva entre humedad media y abundancia de *Agyneta* sp1 (Cuadro 2 y Figura 4; S=26644, *p*=0.045). El análisis de Redundancia también mostro una relación negativa con Ishania sp (Figura 4), sin embargo no se pudo probar con análisis de correlación por carecer de una distribución normal.

Discusión y conclusión

Los valores de riqueza fueron muy similares a los registrados en un sitio conservado de bosque mesófilo de montaña en la Reserva de la Biosfera Volcán Tacaná (RBVT). De igual manera, Linyphiidae fue también la familia más abundante y diversa en el sitio conservado de la RBVT (Chamé-Vázquez, 2011).

Los resultados no mostraron cambios estadísticamente significativos en los ensambles de arañas durante las temporadas. Esto sugiere que ninguna o muy pocas de las especies de arañas son sensibles a cambios pequeños en temperatura y humedad. Sin embargo, encontramos relación de una sola de las especies con los cambios de humedad. Lamentablemente, sólo de muy pocas especies se conoce los ciclos de vida completos (Foelix, 2011) y sólo de unas cuantas se le conoce el rango de tolerancia de

temperatura o humedad (Frick, Kropf y Nentwig, 2007, Cramer y Maywright, 2008). Esto nos limita en la interpretación de los resultados, puesto que en su inmensa mayoría, las arañas han resultado ser generalistas y muy tolerantes a leves cambios ambientales en comparación a grupos como los opiliones. Esto junto a que el sitio de muestreo es una área de conservación, pueden estar influyendo en la estabilidad de este grupo, que mantiene los ensambles sin cambios abruptos aparentes.

Se pudo observar de manera directa que los transecto 1 y 2 fueron los únicos que presentaron ejemplares de *Novalena* sp y *Tegenaria* sp y una alta abundancia de *Grammonota* sp, aunque fue estadísticamente irrelevante. Ambos transectos fueron los que se encontraron más expuestos a los vientos costeros que depositan una mayor cantidad de agua en la vegetación de la cresta, que resulta en una humedad más elevada y constante. Los análisis de humedad mostraron a los sitios 1 y 2 con una dispersión mucho menor en comparación al resto de los sitios. También los transectos 1 y 2 junto con el 3, fueron los que mostraron evidencia de un efecto de la humedad sobre *Agyneta* sp1. Sin embargo, es necesario probarlo con experimentos de laboratorio, pues siendo las arañas especies generalmente sin marcadas restricciones alimenticias y muy tolerantes al ambiente, podríamos estar incurriendo en falsos positivos.

Aunque pudimos ver que existían diferencias puntuales en la composición de especies, hacen falta más estudios ecológicos y de laboratorio donde se consideren otros tipos de variables ambientales, como productividad primaria, depredación, competencia o

parámetros poblacionales. Ya que lo que se conoce sobre la biología de las especies de arañas de los BMM, aún es muy escaso para poder dar conclusiones definitivas.

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Cuadro 4. Matriz de abundancias obtenidas para arañas para cada transecto.

Continúa Cuadro 1...

Familia y especie	T01	T02	T03	T04	T05	T06	T07	T08	T09	T10	Total
Ochyroceratidae											
Ochyrocera sp.		2	2	2							6
Speocera sp.			1		7	11		2	13	2	36
Tetragnathidae											
Chrysometa sp.				1							1
Glenognatha sp.	1				1		1			2	5
Theridiosomatidae											
Theridiosoma davisi	1		2	5	3	1	3	1	1	3	20
Theriidae											
<i>Dipoena</i> sp.	2	3	2	4	2	2		2	1	3	21
Dipluridae											
Morfotipo	1	1									2
Teraphosidae											
Morfotipo	1									1	2
Paratropididae											
Paratropis sp.							2			2	4
Ctenizidae											
<i>Hebestatis</i> sp.									2		2
Nesticidae											
Gaucelmus sp.		1									1
Haniidae											
<i>Hania</i> sp.			2								2
Salticidae											
Zygoballus sp.									1		1
Morfotipo		1									1
Araneidae											
Micrathena sp.								1			1
Anyphaenidae											
Anyphaena sp.	4										4
Abundancia total	332	250	171	152	165	134	156	214	224	112	1910
Riqueza total	28	23	21	18	21	16	17	19	18	17	45

% ajuste del modelo			% variación explicada			
Axis	Individual	Cumulative	Individual	Cumulative		
1	76.35	76.35	3.1	3.1		
2	23.65	100	0.96	4.06		

Cuadro 2. Ajuste del modelo del RDA y porcentaje de la variabilidad explicada para la relación arañas versus temperatura y humedad.



Figura 1. Gráfico de abundancia/frecuencia expresando la categorización de las especies de arañas en dominantes (área superior derecha), constantes (área inferior derecha), temporales (área superior izquierda) y raras (área inferior izquierda)



Figura 2. Curvas de rarefacción de Coleman para las temporadas (gráfica superior) y laderas (gráfica inferior) con sus intervalos de confianza.



Figura 3. Escalamiento Multidimensional No Métrico con la composición y abundancia de arañas para cada transecto (Transectos del 1 al 10 =T01 a T10, respectivamente). Se muestra al mismo tiempo el traslape de ambas laderas.



Figura 4. Analisis de redundancia para la relación de abundancia de arañas con temperatura y humedad media.

Conclusión

Los dos grupos de arácnidos del suelo estudiados tuvieron una riqueza relativamente alta, en comparación a otros estudios y otros sitios. Para las arañas, los resultados muestran algunas coincidencias (en riqueza y grupos dominantes) con otro estudio de un hábitat similar en esta misma región. Esto muestra un posible patrón para este grupo, con las especies de la familia Linyphiidae como dominantes en abundancia y riqueza de zonas altas, en comparación con las faunas registradas a menores altitudes en esta región. Sin embargo, no mostraron cambios significativos a través de las temporadas, ni entre transectos. Si bien no se pudo encontrar relación de ninguna especie con temperatura, si encontramos evidencia de un posible efecto de la humedad sobre *Agyneta* sp1. Aunque esta relación fue relevante, las arañas son organismos en su gran mayoría generalistas. Por lo que es necesario realizar futuras investigaciones en laboratorio que corroboren dicha respuesta de esta especie hacia leves cambios de humedad.

En el caso de los opiliones, los resultados demostraron la importancia que tienen las variables ambientales sobre la distribución temporal de su diversidad, y mostraron como una especie muy dominante puede estar influenciando todo el ensamble de especies. *Metopilio* sp1 resultó ser la especie más importante por su tamaño poblacional, y por su notable respuesta a la humedad podría ser de utilidad para estudiar la conservación o el disturbio en este tipo de ecosistemas, considerando la variación temporal observada.

Aunque el tamaño de la muestra espacial fue relativamente pequeño para demostrar resultados contundentes sobre la variabilidad espacial, pudimos observar un notable efecto de ladera desde el transecto uno al diez, demostrando la importancia de la exposición de las áreas hacia factores ambientales cíclicos. Otros factores que revelaron su importancia potencial para los ensambles de opiliones fueron la composición de la hojarasca y la densidad de troncos caídos, ambos factores influyen en la heterogeneidad del suelo como biotopo en el que se desplazan o resguardan estos organismos. Todo esto nos da elementos para diseñar futuras investigaciones de este grupo.

El estudio de opiliones de México se ha enfocado principalmente en su taxonomía aunque aún falta mucho por conocer. Sin embargo, en México no existían estudios metódicos dedicados a conocer su ecología hasta el presente trabajo, el cual reveló indicios de que este grupo puede ser de utilidad para futuros trabajos de conservación y además, por sus endemismos serían de gran ayuda para estudios biogeográficos.

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