

The Eastern Boundary of the Brazilian Cerrado: A Hotspot Region

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Cibele R. Bonvicino, Scott M. Lindbergh, Michel Barros Faria, and Alexandra M.R. Bezerra (2012) The eastern boundary of the Brazilian Cerrado: a hotspot region. *Zoological Studies* 51(7): 1207-1218. The non-flying small-mammal fauna of the eastern Cerrado domain of central Brazil, Trijunção region, Bahia and Goiás States, was surveyed and karyotyped in the dry and wet seasons. Four marsupial and 15 rodent species were captured, 5 of which are endemic to the Cerrado morphoclimatic domain. Some species were captured only in the dry season, and others only in the wet season. Species showed different habitat use during the year. Dry-season trap success was higher in wetland habitats, while rainy-season trap success was higher in dry habitats. These findings suggest that the season influences the presence and/or activity of some species in the different physiognomies. The geographic distribution of small rodents endemic to the Cerrado and the high number of endemic species in the study region point to the eastern Cerrado as another hotspot of this domain. <http://zoolstud.sinica.edu.tw/Journals/51.7/1207.pdf>

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The Cerrado domain, with its many endemic species, is located almost exclusively in central Brazil (IBGE 2004). It is subjected to high levels of human activity (Myers et al. 2000) and is also considered among the 25 most important terrestrial hotspots. Some 10,000 plant species, 227 mammal species, 837 bird species, 120 reptile species, and 150 amphibian species recorded there (Myers et al. 2000, Marinho-Filho et al. 2002, Carmignotto et al. 2012) demonstrate its extraordinary biodiversity. Some authors list 25 endemic Cerrado mammal species (11%), mainly small rodents and marsupials (Carmignotto et al. 2012). The non-volant small-mammal fauna is underestimated, mainly due to high morphologic similarities among congeneric species. This scenario makes karyotypic analysis a very useful

tool for confirming identifications and disclosing the underlying biodiversity (Langguth and Bonvicino 2002, Bonvicino 2003, Gonçalves et al. 2005).

The vegetational diversity of the Cerrado domain is attributed to its mosaic of discrete and highly variable physiognomic characteristics, which range from forests to grasslands (Eiten 1983). Despite the heterogeneity of the vegetative composition in different Cerrado regions and high local endemism, taxonomic and ecologic studies on small-mammal communities are concentrated in the center of the Cerrado domain (Distrito Federal and Goiás and Tocantins States, e.g., Mares and Ernest 1995, Bonvicino et al. 1996 2005, Ribeiro and Marinho 2005, Bezerra et al. 2009 2010), with few reports on the western (Cáceres et al. 2007) or eastern portions (Pereira and Geise 2009) of the

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domain.

In this study, we sampled small mammals near the eastern limit of the Cerrado domain. We discuss the endemism of the small rodent species evinced. Additionally, we hope to contribute to the increasing knowledge on non-volant small mammals of the Cerrado, by providing data on the karyology and comments about geographic distributions and natural histories of the species surveyed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

Habitat types of the Cerrado found in the study area are campo úmido (CU), an open seasonally flooded grassland with no shrubs or arboreal cover; campo cerrado (CC), an open arboreal savanna with bushes and an arboreal cover of < 15% of the total vegetation; campo de murundum (CM), an open seasonally wet grassland with islands of dense vegetation; cerrado *sensu stricto* (CE), the most characteristic vegetation type of the Cerrado and a dense savanna dominated by shrubs and trees, often 3-8 m tall, and a 15%-40% arboreal cover; semideciduous forest (SD), a forest formation where ~50% of the trees lose

their leaves in the dry season; gallery forest (GF), an evergreen forest along watercourses; and vereda (VE), a wet grassland with buriti palm trees, generally associated with the CU (Eiten 1992). Also sampled were carrasco (CO), which is comprised of slender and hard shrubs ~1.5 m tall, typical of the Caatinga domain (Eiten 1983); and 2 human-modified habitats, a *Pinus* sp. plantation (P) and human buildings (HU). Soils in this region are sandy.

The study region has a typical Cerrado tropical pluviometric index with 70% of the rain falling from Nov. to Mar. (Nimer 1989). Rainfall drains into the Rio Formoso, a left-bank tributary of the Rio São Francisco. It is located in Bahia (BA) and Goiás (GO) States, where these meet with Minas Gerais State, and this represents the eastern limit of the Cerrado domain (Fig. 1). The 4 general localities and habitats sampled in each were the (1) São Francisco da Trijunção farm, Cocos municipality, BA including CC (14°49'S, 45°58'W) and CU (14°49'S, 45°58'W); (2) Região da Trijunção farm, Jaborandi municipality, BA, including SD (14°47'S, 45°51'W), CE (14°46'S, 45°56'W), CC, 2 VE tracts (14°46'S, 45°56'W and 14°47'S, 45°57'W), CM (14°48'S, 45°58'W), P (14°46'S, 45°58'W), and HU (14°46'S, 45°56'W); (3) Paredão Vermelho farm, Sítio da Abadia municipality, GO including GF (14°47'S, 46°02'W);

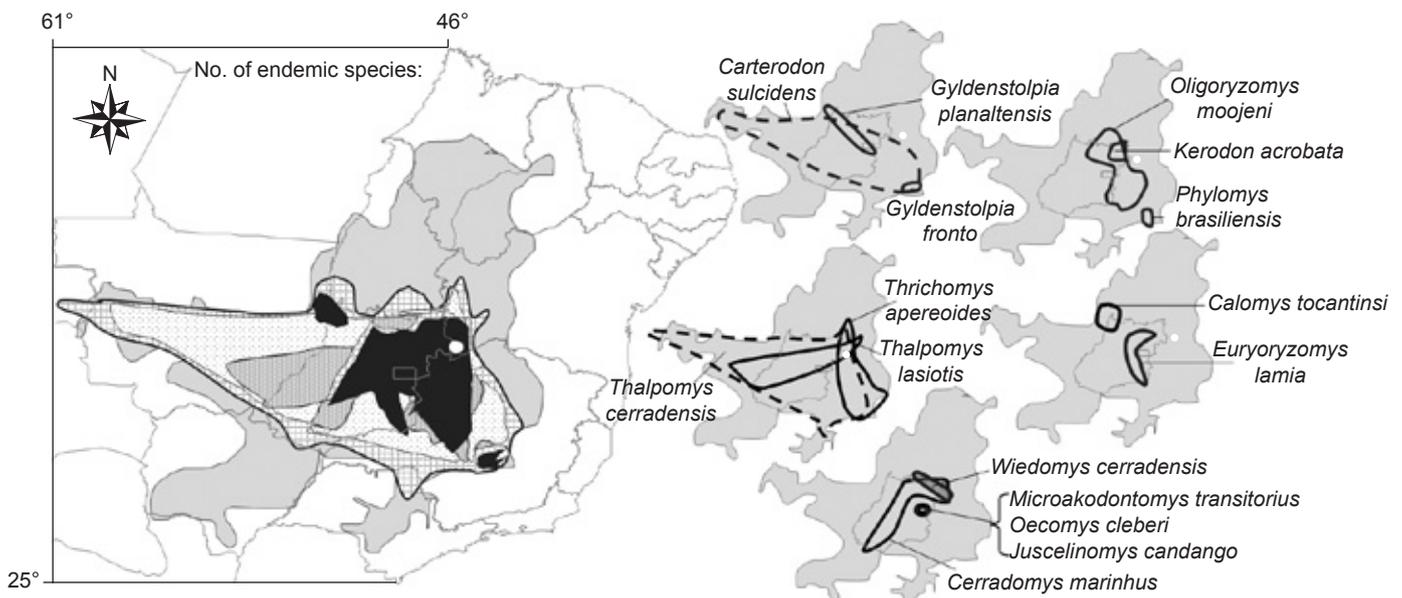


Fig. 1. Map showing the collecting region (white circle) within the limits of the Cerrado domain (gray area) modified from IBGE (1993) and distributions of the 16 endemic species of small rodents from the Cerrado (modified from Bonvicino et al. 2008). On the left, gray areas represent the occurrence of endemic species, from one in the lightest gray to four or more endemic species in darker gray.

and (4) Leite Verde farm, Jaborandi, including CO (14°36'S, 45°46'W).

Sampling procedures

Surveys were performed in each locality during the end of the dry season (LD) (30 Aug. to 13 Sept. 1998), early rainy season (W) (23-31 Oct. 1999), and early dry season (ED) (20-27 Apr. 2010). Sherman® (23 × 9 × 8 cm, Sherman® Folding Traps, Tallahassee, FL, USA) and Tomahawk (43 × 12.5 × 15.5 cm, Tomahawk Live Traps®, Hazelhurst, WI, USA) live traps were placed 10-15 m apart from one another in linear transects. Bait consisted of a mixture of bacon, banana, peanut butter, and oat flakes. Discrepancies in trapping efforts were mainly due to availability of vegetation types (Table 1). In the 1st 2 expeditions, transects were placed in the same places to compare small-mammal fauna in different seasons, but the CU was below the water table in W and was not sampled. The 1st expedition occurred just after wildfires had scorched much of the area, including the VE and CU. Comparative success of capture was expressed as a percentage (%) calculated by dividing the total number of individuals of each species caught in each habitat by the effort applied in that habitat (numbers of Sherman and Tomahawk traps used).

Females were considered reproductive when in rodents, the embryos were tactile in the uterus and in marsupials, there was an offspring in the pouch, and both were considered to be nursing when an animal had milk in its breasts.

Identification, nomenclature, and voucher specimens

To confirm species identifications, some specimens were karyotyped in the field following Andrade and Bonvicino (2003). Voucher species were or will be deposited in the mammal collections of the Museu Nacional, Univ. Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MN). The abbreviation, CRB, refers to the field number of Cibele R. Bonvicino. Taxonomic nomenclature and species distributions follow Wilson and Reeder (2005) and Bonvicino et al. (2008) for rodents and Gardner (2008) for marsupials. When additional data are included, they are cited in the respective species account.

RESULTS

In total, 200 individuals belonging to 4 marsupial and 15 rodent species were collected (Table 1) in the course of 7651 trap-nights. The overall mean trapping success was 2.6% (2.6% in the early dry season, 2.8% in the late dry season, and 2.2% in the rainy season).

The following account summarizes the species of non-volant small mammals collected in the study area.

Didelphimorphia

Cryptonanus agricolai (Moojen, 1943) is characterized by $2n = 14$, $FNa = 24$ (Voss et al. 2005). Only 1 male specimen was captured in the VE (Table 1). This species is distributed in

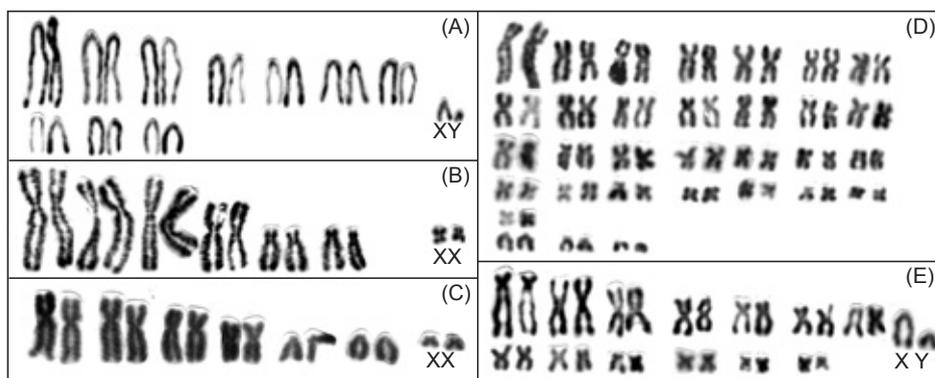


Fig. 2. Conventional Giemsa staining of the chromosome complements of (A) *Didelphis albiventris* (male CRB 1870) with $2n = 22$ and $FNa = 20$, (B) *Gracilinanus agilis* (female MN 66014) with $2n = 14$ and $FNa = 24$, (C) *Thylamys karimii* (female CRB 2867) with $2n = 14$ and $FNa = 20$, (D) *Galea spixii* (female MN 66032) with $2n = 64$ and $FNa = 118$ or 120 , and (E) *Thrichomys apereoides* (male MN 66022) with $2n = 28$ and $FNa = 52$.

Table 1. Summary of species and specimens captured per vegetation types. The habitats are described in “Materials and Methods” as follows: GF, gallery forest; SD, semideciduous forest; CE, cerrado *sensu stricto*; CC, campo cerrado; VE, vereda; CM, campo de murundum; CU, campo úmido; P, *Pinus* plantation; CO, carrasco; and HU, human buildings. T, total specimens. Seasons: ED, early dry season; LD, late dry season; and W, wet season. NS, not sampled

	GF		SD			CE			CC			VE		
	ED	NS	ED	LD	W	ED	LD	W	ED	LD	W	ED	LD	W
DIDELPHIMORPHIA														
<i>Cryptonanus agricolai</i>												1		
<i>Didelphis albiventris</i>					2								1	1
<i>Gracilinanus agilis</i>	1		3	3		3							3	
<i>Thylamys karimii</i>						1								
RODENTIA														
Caviidae: Caviinae														
<i>Galea spixii</i>			5	2						2				
Echimyidae: Eumysopinae														
<i>Thrichomys apereoides</i>			6	8	4				2		2			
Cricetidae: Sigmodontinae														
<i>Calomys expulsus</i>			2		1									
<i>Calomys tener</i>			4									1		
<i>Cerradomys marinhos</i>													21	16
<i>Cerradomys scotti</i>			1		1			1				1		
<i>Necomys lasiurus</i>			2										1	
<i>Nectomys squamipes</i>														2
<i>Oecomys bicolor</i> group	5													
<i>Oligoryzomys fornesi</i>													5	
<i>Oxymycterus delator</i>												2	24	
<i>Rhipidomys</i> aff. <i>macrurus</i>	1			1	1									
<i>Thalpomys cerradensis</i>					1									
<i>Thalpomys lasiotis</i>														
<i>Wiedomys cerradensis</i>				3										
No. of specimens	7	NS	23	19	12	NS	NS	3	0	4	6	6	55	19
Trapping effort	400	NS	981	393	698	172	40	200	322	460	347	1237	598	
Capture success (%)	1.7	NS	2.3	4.1	2.4	0	0	1.5	0	0.9	1.4	4.4	3.1	

	CM			CU			P			CO	HU	T
	ED	LD	W	ED	LD	W	ED	LD	W	ED	W	
DIDELPHIMORPHIA												
<i>Cryptonanus agricolai</i>												1
<i>Didelphis albiventris</i>												1
<i>Gracilinanus agilis</i>										8		4
<i>Thylamys karimii</i>												21
<i>Thylamys karimii</i>												1
RODENTIA												
Caviidae: Caviinae												
<i>Galea spixii</i>												9
Echimyidae: Eumysopinae												
<i>Thrichomys apereoides</i>												22
Cricetidae: Sigmodontinae												
<i>Calomys expulsus</i>												3
<i>Calomys tener</i>			2	1				1				9
<i>Cerradomys marinhos</i>												37
<i>Cerradomys scotti</i>								5				9
<i>Necomys lasiurus</i>			1		1							5
<i>Nectomys squamipes</i>												2
<i>Oecomys bicolor</i> group												5
<i>Oligoryzomys fornesi</i>		1						1				7
<i>Oxymycterus delator</i>				20								46
<i>Rhipidomys</i> aff. <i>macrurus</i>											3	6
<i>Thalpomys cerradensis</i>												1
<i>Thalpomys lasiotis</i>		7			5							12
<i>Wiedomys cerradensis</i>												3
No. of specimens	NS	8	3	21	6	NS	NS	7	0	8	3	204
Trapping effort	NS	460	360	354	249		NS	118	104	158		7651
Capture success (%)	NS	1.7	0.8	4.8	2.4	NS	NS	5.9	0	5.5		2.6

Caatinga and Cerrado (Voss et al. 2005). This species was diagnosed by the absence of a secondary foramen ovale, which is present in *Gracilinanus agilis* (Voss et al. 2005), a similar sympatric species in the study area. *Cryptonanus agricolai* differs from other species of the genus by the combination of characters such as a whitish ventral fur, small molars, and a complete anterior cingulum on M3 (Voss et al. 2005).

Didelphis albiventris Lund, 1840 has a karyotype of $2n = 22$, FNa = 20 (Fig. 2A). Four specimens were captured in the VE and SD (Table 1), with females lactating in Sept. (1 with 11 young) and Oct. (2 with 7 young each). This widespread species occurs in domains of Caatinga, Cerrado, Pantanal, Pampa, and the western limit of Atlantic Forest. White ears easily differentiate it from *D. marsupialis* Linnaeus, 1758 and *D. aurita* (Wied-Neuwied, 1826), which respectively occur in the western and eastern Cerrado (Carmignotto 2005).

Gracilinanus agilis (Burmeister, 1854) has a karyotype of $2n = 14$, FNa = 24 (Fig. 2B). Twenty-one specimens were captured in the GF, SD, CE, VE, and CO (Table 1), with 1 pregnant female in Sept., and 2 post-weaning females in Oct. This widespread species occurs in the Caatinga, Cerrado, and Pantanal domains. It can be mistaken for other genera but differs from species of *Marmosa* Gray, 1821 and *Marmosops* Matschie, 1916 principally by its smaller head and body size (Gardner 2008). As to species presently found in the region, *G. agilis* differs from *Thylamys karimii* (Wagner, 1843) by the tail being longer than the head and body length (Gardner 2008), and from *C. agricolai* by the presence of a secondary foramen ovale (Voss et al. 2005).

Thylamys karimii (Wagner, 1842) has a karyotype of $2n = 14$, FNa = 20 (Fig. 2C). One female specimen was captured in the CE. This non-pregnant female was captured in the early dry season. It is common in the area in regurgit. Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) pellets (Bonvicino and Bezerra 2003). *Thylamys karimii* differs from *T. velutinus* by its brownish dorsum and whitish venter, while *T. velutinus* is reddish-brown dorsally and grayish ventrally; *T. karimii* also shows larger posterolateral palatal foramina and more-developed supraorbital ridges (Carmignotto and Monfort 2006). See above, in the *G. agilis* section, for morphologic comparisons between the genera *Thylamys* and *Gracilinanus*.

Rodentia: Caviidae: Caviinae

Galea spixii (Wagler, 1831) has a karyotype of $2n = 64$, FNa = 118 or 120, and the X sexual chromosome was not identified (Fig. 2D). Nine specimens were captured in the SD and CC in sandy soils without rocks (Table 1). In the late dry season, 2 adult females were pregnant with 1 offspring each. One male and 1 female were juveniles. In the rainy season, 1 female was pregnant with 2 embryos, one was lactant, and another one was not reproductive. This species is restricted to the southwestern Caatinga and eastern Cerrado domains and is distinguished from other congeneric species occurring in the Cerrado by a set of morphometric characters (Bezerra 2008).

Rodentia: Echimyidae: Eumysopinae

Thrichomys apereoides (Lund, 1839) has a karyotype of $2n = 28$, FNa = 52 (Fig. 2E). Two karyotypes were attributed to *Thr. apereoides sensu* Braggio and Bonvicino (2004). Topotypes from Lagoa Santa showed $2n = 28$ and FNa = 50 (Pessôa et al. 2004), differing from those herein described by 1 pericentric inversion. This difference is similar to that found between *Thr. laurentius* ($2n = 30$, FNa = 54) and *Thrichomys* sp. ($2n = 30$, FNa = 56), suggesting that *Thr. apereoides* from the type locality and the one listed here might be different taxa. Twenty-two specimens were captured in the SD, CC, and CE (Table 1). All 3 adult females were pregnant with 2, 3, and 5 embryos, respectively, in the late dry season. In the rainy season, 2 females were pregnant with 4 and 3 embryos; 2 other females were juveniles. This species, a Cerrado endemic, has a long furry tail, grayish dorsum, whitish venter, and a ring of white hairs around the eyes.

Rodentia: Cricetidae: Sigmodontinae

Calomys expulsus (Lund, 1841) has a karyotype of $2n = 66$, FNa = 68 (not shown), as in Svartman (1989) and Bonvicino and Almeida (2000). Three specimens were captured in the SD and CE (Table 1). In the late dry season, 2 females were pregnant with 6 and 3 embryos each. This widespread species from the Cerrado and Caatinga is sympatric with *Cal. tener* in the study area; it differs in having a larger body size, darker grayish-brown general coloration, and cranial characters such as a wider palate and 1st upper

molar, and more-projected anterior zygomatic plate board resulting in a larger zygomatic notch (Bonvicino and Almeida 2000).

Calomys tener (Winge, 1887) has a karyotype of $2n = 66$, $FNa = 66$ (Fig. 3E). This karyotype was first described for specimens from Itapetinga, São Paulo State, under the identification *Calomys* sp. (Yonenaga 1975). Later, it was associated with *Cal. tener* (Svartman 1989). Nine specimens were captured in the SD, VE, CM, CU, and P (Table 1). One female was pregnant in Sept. (dry season) with 3 embryos. *Calomys tener* occurs in the central and southeastern Cerrado and transitional areas between the Caatinga and Atlantic Rainforest. It is sympatric with *Cal. expulsus* in the study area (see explanation in *Cal. expulsus*). *Calomys tener* is similar in external

morphology to *Thalpomys lasiotis*, differing by a spot of post-auricular white hairs (Bonvicino et al. 2008). The dorsal coloration of this species varies from yellowish to light orangish-brown across its distribution.

Cerradomys marinhus (Bonvicino 2003) has a karyotype of $2n = 56$, $FNa = 54$ (Fig. 3I). This karyotype was first reported for specimens identified as *Oryzomys* sp. n. 5 (Bonvicino and Moreira 2001) and afterwards was attributed to *Oryzomys marinhus* topotypes (Bonvicino 2003), and later this species was included in the genus *Cerradomys* (Weksler et al. 2006). Thirty-seven specimens were captured only in the VE (Table 1). In the late dry season, four of 8 adult females were pregnant, two with 4 embryos, one with 3 embryos, and another with 2 embryos. One female and 5

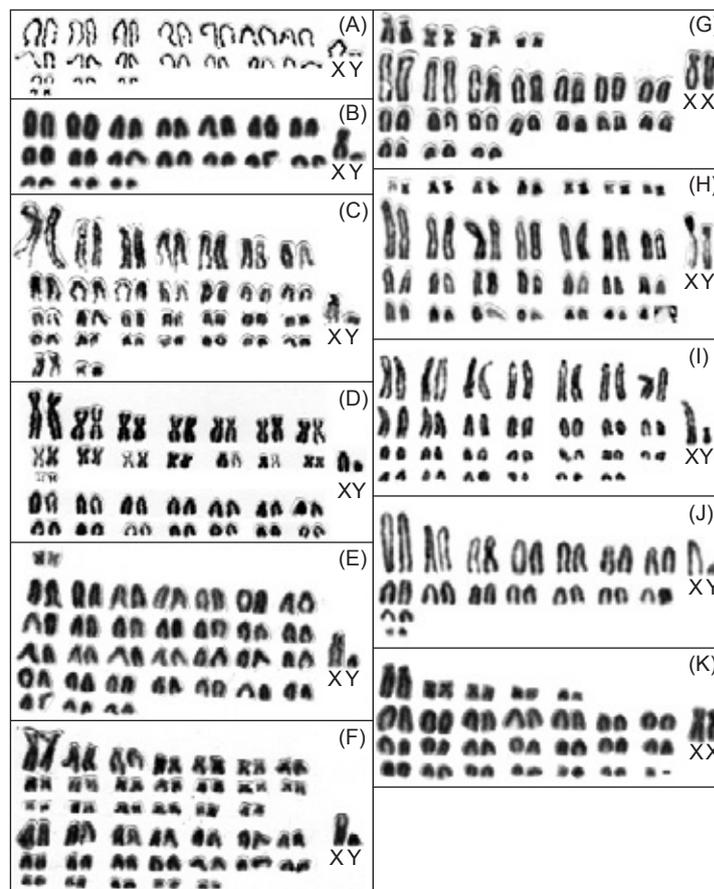


Fig. 3. Conventional Giemsa staining of the chromosome complements of (A) *Thalpomys lasiotis* (male MN 62657) with $2n = 38$ and $FNa = 38$, (B) *Tha. cerradensis* (male CRB 2919) with $2n = 36$ and $FNa = 34$, (C) *Oligoryzomys fornesi* (male MN 62638) with $2n = 62$ and $FNa = 64$, (D) *Wiedomys cerradensis* (male MN 61657) with $2n = 60$ and $FNa = 88$, (E) *Calomys tener* (male CRB 2927) with $2n = 66$ and $FNa = 66$, (F) the *Oecomys bicolor* group (male CRB 2930) with $2n = 80$ and $FNa = 118$, (G) *Rhipidomys* aff. *macrurus* (female CRB 1881) with $2n = 44$ and $FNa = 50$, (H) *Cerradomys scotti* (male MN 61672) with $2n = 58$ and $FNa = 70$, (I) *Cer. marinhus* (male MN 63826) with $2n = 56$ and $FNa = 54$, (J) *Necromys lasiurus* (male CRB 1823) and $2n = 34$ and $FNa = 34$, (K) *Oxymycterus delator* (female CRB 2935) with $2n = 54$ and $FNa = 62$.

males were juveniles. In the rainy season, 2 of 5 females were pregnant, both with 2 embryos. This species was also recovered in regurgitated Barn Owl pellets collected in the region (Bonvicino and Bezerra 2003). This endemic Cerrado species occurs in Goiás State, southwestern Bahia State, and eastern Mato Grosso do Sul State. It differs from the sympatric *Cer. scotti*, by its larger body size, proportionally smaller ears, darker dorsal coloration, absence of an alisphenoid strut, more-robust skull, and very developed supraorbital crests (Bonvicino 2003).

Cerradomys scotti (Langguth and Bonvicino, 2002) has a karyotype of $2n = 58$, $FNa = 70$ (Fig. 3H). This karyotype was first described in 1999 (Bonvicino et al. 1999); however, this species was only described 3 yr later, when the karyotype was attributed to topotypes (Langguth and Bonvicino 2002). Nine specimens were captured. Six specimens were captured in the SD and P in the late dry season, when open vegetation formations were dry, while 4 specimens were captured in the CE, CC, and VE in the early dry season, when open vegetation formations were still green (Table 1). Two females were pregnant with 3 and 6 embryos in the late dry season. This widespread species of the Cerrado and Pantanal differs from other *Cerradomys* species by its proportionally larger ears, lighter-colored pelage, and the presence of an alisphenoid strut in the skull (Bonvicino 2003). It is characterized by a long incisive foramen and poorly defined limits between the ventral and dorsal coloration.

Necromys lasiurus (Lund, 1841) has a karyotype of $2n = 34$, $FNa = 34$ (Fig. 3J). Five specimens were captured in the SD, VE, CU, and CM (Table 1). No captured females were pregnant or lactating. Our data suggest that this species occurs in vegetation with both grass cover (CU, VE, and CM) and without (or low) grass cover (SD), being commoner in the former. Late dry-season fires had scorched much of the area where we captured *N. lasiurus*. This widespread species is found in the Caatinga, Cerrado, Pantanal, western Atlantic Forest, and southern Amazonia domains. The species can be mistaken for *Akodon* Meyen, 1833, but has a ring of light hairs around the eyes, a furrier tail, a shorter rostrum, broader molars, and a different karyotype (Bonvicino et al. 2008).

Nectomys squamipes Brants, 1827 has a karyotype of $2n = 56$, $FNa = 56$, with diploid and fundamental numbers variation due to the presence of up to 3 supernumerary chromosomes (Bonvicino et al. 1996). Although normally

abundant, only 2 specimens were captured in the VE (Table 1), confirming that *Nec. squamipes* occurs in habitats near watercourses (Ernest and Mares 1986). This widespread species occurs in both the Cerrado and Atlantic forest. It differs from *Nec. rattus* (Pelzeln, 1883) ($2n = 52$) in (1) a reduction of the supraorbital ridges that do not reach frontal and parietal suture as they do in *Nec. rattus*, and (2) a longer palatal bone that projects behind the molar row by about the M^1 length; in *Nec. rattus*, the shorter palatal bone projects beyond the end of the molar row by about the M^2 length (Bonvicino 1994).

The *Oecomys bicolor* group (*sensu* Musser and Carleton 2005) has a karyotype of $2n = 80$, $FNa = 118$ (Fig. 3F). Five specimens were captured in the GF. No captured females were pregnant or lactating. This species group is characterized by its karyotype and by the tail being longer than the body, with a tuft of hair at its end, short broad feet, a whitish venter, a brownish dorsum, very long vibrissae, and a small body size (see Patton et al. 2000).

Oligoryzomys fornesi (Massoia, 1973) has a karyotype of $2n = 62$, $FNa = 64$ (Fig. 3C). This karyotype was first reported in a Paraguayan example of *Oli. fornesi* (Myers and Carleton 1981) and was variously associated in Brazil with *Oli. aff. eliurus* in Pernambuco State (Furtado 1981), and to *Oli. eliurus* in Distrito Federal (Svartman 1989) and Goiás State (Andrades-Miranda et al. 2001), but Bonvicino and Weksler (1998) showed that this karyotype belongs to *Oli. fornesi*. Seven specimens were captured in the VE, CM, and P (Table 1), but the species also occurs in campo sujo and Cerrado outcrops (Carmignotto and Aires 2011). The captured female was not pregnant or lactating. This widespread, but not abundant species occurs in the Cerrado and Caatinga domains (Bonvicino et al. 2002). It can be differentiated from other congeneric species of lowland Cerrado, i.e., *Oli. nigripes* (Olfers, 1818), *Oli. moojeni* Weksler and Bonvicino (2005), and *Oli. stramineus* Bonvicino and Weksler (1998), by its yellower-gray venter, the absence of a ventral orange patch of hair on the forearms (*Oli. nigripes* and *Oli. stramineus*), and by the karyotype (Bonvicino and Weksler 1998, Weksler and Bonvicino 2005).

Oxymycterus delator Thomas, 1903 has karyotypic data shared by all *Oxymycterus* species of $2n = 54$, $FNa = 62$ (Fig. 3K) despite major morphological differences (Oliveira 1998), and it was exclusively captured in the VE (Table 1).

Regurgitated pellets showed that Barn Owls eat this species in the area (Bonvicino and Bezerra 2003). Forty-six specimens were captured in the VE and CU. In the early dry season, 2 females were pregnant with 3 embryos each; in the late dry season, 1 female had 5 and 2 had 3 embryos, 2 were nulliparous, and 7 were not pregnant. *Oxymycterus delator* is widespread in the Cerrado and Caatinga domains and easily identified by its powerful claws and the dark dorsum contrasting with a yellowish-orange underside (Oliveira 1998).

Rhipidomys aff. *macrurus* has a karyotype of $2n = 44$, FNa = 50 (Fig. 3G). Twenty of the 22 recognized species of this genus have the same diploid number ($2n = 44$) and variable fundamental numbers, of 48-74 (Zanchin et al. 1992). The other 2 species, *R. nitela* Thomas, 1901 and *R. cf. nitela*, have karyotypes of $2n = 48$ and $2n = 50$, respectively (Tribe 1996). *Rhipidomys macrurus* is characterized by a $2n = 44$, FNa = 48 karyotype, whereas specimens studied had an additional median-sized bivalent pair, probably a result of a pericentric inversion. Due to this difference, these specimens are referred to as *R. aff. macrurus*. Furthermore, phylogenetic analyses with cytochrome *b* sequences showed that these 2 lineages were not monophyletic and are likely independent lineages (Souza 2011). Six specimens were captured in the HU, SD, and GF (Table 1). No captured females were pregnant. This genus is identifiable by its completely white belly, the tuft of hair on the tail, and short feet with a characteristic dark patch of hair on the upper surface of the manus and pes (Bonvicino et al. 1998).

Thalpomys cerradensis Hershkovitz, 1990 has a karyotype of $2n = 36$, FNa = 34 (Fig. 3B). This karyotype was described based on G and C bands for specimens from Federal District and Bahia State (Andrade et al. 2004). One individual we collected was dropped by a Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) at the CU and VE ecotone in the early dry season, and another was captured by a Sherman trap in the CE (Table 1). Barn Owl pellets in the region also included specimens (Bonvicino and Bezerra 2003). The single specimen of *Tha. cerradensis* captured in traps in the course of 3 expeditions suggests low density, trap shyness, or specialized micro-habitat use. Although there are few samples in museums, this rare species can be locally abundant, as in Tocantins State, where it was found to be one of the 4 most abundant cricetid rodent species (Carmignotto and Aires 2011). This endemic

Cerrado species occurs in Distrito Federal and in the states of Goiás, Tocantins (south), Bahia (west), and Mato Grosso (southeast) (Andrade et al. 2004, Carmignotto and Aires 2011). Sympatric with *Tha. lasiotis*, it differs in a larger size and darker dorsal coloration, and the karyotype (Andrade et al. 2004).

Thalpomys lasiotis Thomas, 1916 has a karyotype of $2n = 38$, FNa = 38 (Fig. 3A). The karyotype was first described in 1983 for specimens identified as *Akodon reinhardti* Langguth 1995 (Armada et al. 1983), which was later considered a junior synonym of *Tha. lasiotis* (Musser and Carleton 2005). Subsequently, a polymorphism ($2n = 37$ or 38 , FNa = 38) resulting from a centric fusion of 2 autosomal chromosomes was described for specimens from Brasília, and also *A. reinhardti* (Yonenaga-Yassuda et al. 1987). The 1st association between *Tha. lasiotis* and $2n = 38$, FNa = 38 was based on specimens from Federal District and Bahia State (Andrade et al. 2004). Twelve specimens were found in the CM and CU in the late dry season (Table 1), and this species was common in regurgitated Barn Owl pellets collected in the same season in Cocos, Jaborandi, and Bahia States (Bonvicino and Bezerra 2003). One female was pregnant with 2 embryos. This Cerrado endemic species is widespread, and its western limit is in Vilhena, extreme southern Rondônia State. Sympatric with *Tha. cerradensis* Hershkovitz, 1990, it differs in a smaller size and pale-yellowish dorsal coloration. Similar in external morphology to *Cal. tener* (Winge, 1887), also found in the area, it differs in lacking the white hair tufts at the ear base (Bonvicino et al. 2008).

Wiedomys cerradensis Gonçalves, Almeida and Bonvicino, 2005 has a karyotype of $2n = 60$, FNa = 88 (Fig. 3D). This karyotype was first described in *W. cerradensis* topotypes (Gonçalves et al. 2005). Three specimens were captured in the SD (Table 1), one of which was a juvenile. The captured female was not pregnant. This endemic Cerrado species is found in southwestern Bahia, northeastern Goiás, and southern Tocantins States (Gonçalves et al. 2005, AMR Bezerra unpubl. data). It differs from other sympatric rodent species in its reddish rostrum nose, ears, and flanks all contrasting with the overall grayish coloration of the body, and from *W. pyrrhorhinus* (Wied-Neuwied, 1821) in the presence of an alisphenoid strut (Gonçalves et al. 2005).

DISCUSSION

In the Cerrado domain, relationships of species diversity with abundance, habitat, and seasonality are dynamic and unique to each area (Carmignotto 2005). However, general patterns like a preference for forested or open vegetation habitat are stable (Bezerra et al. 2009, Rocha et al. 2011). Despite this constant association, species appear to be able to choose between different environmental variables. In this study, *Thalpomys* species showed restricted habitat use, occurring only in natural grasslands, as *Oxymycterus delator*, *Net. squamipes*, and *Cer. marinhus*, which were found only in the VE, CU, and CM habitats. Species with arboreal habits (e.g., *Rhipidomys* aff. *macrurus*, *Oecomys bicolor* group, and *G. agilis*) were collected only in forest vegetation and adjacent open vegetation immediately adjacent to forested areas.

Pinus plantations provide a mesic habitat for small mammals, and thus there was high trap success in the dry season. The data suggest that in dry months small mammals' use of open vegetation habitats like the CC decreases and use of wetland habitat like the VE increases. Thus the relation between faunal composition and vegetation type varies among different seasons. More-complex vegetation (SD and VE with pioneer formations) presented higher species richness in both seasons, although the richness in the wet season in the VE decreased probably due to a higher water table. Specimens were only captured in the P during the dry session and only in the 1st 2 d of collection. Open vegetation formations (CU, CM, and CC) showed low species richness values in both seasons.

It is suggested that gallery and dry forests, which occupy < 20% of the Cerrado, are critical for a large portion of regional biodiversity (Silva and Bates 2002). However, open vegetation formations, despite lower species richness, contain the majority of Cerrado endemic small-mammal species (Bezerra 2005, Carmignotto 2005, Carmignotto et al. 2012). In the sampled area, four of the 5 Cerrado endemics are mainly open vegetation inhabitants (*Tha. lasiotis*, *Tha. cerradensis*, *Cer. marinhus*, and *Thr. apereoides*), and only 1 species (*W. cerradensis*) appears to be a forest inhabitant. Werneck (2011) suggested that the importance of forest formations to diversity levels is not equally distributed among taxonomic groups, being more important, for example, for large than small mammals. The data of our study

fortify Werneck's hypothesis and corroborate that open vegetation formations are very important for small endemic rodents.

Five (38%) of the 16 small rodent species endemic to the Cerrado domain (Marinho-Filho et al. 2002, Carmignotto 2005, Bonvicino et al. 2008) occurred in the study area, showing the importance of this region for conservation (Fig. 1), and four of them have restricted distributions: *W. cerradensis*, *Tha. cerradensis*, *Cer. marinhus*, and *Thr. apereoides* (*sensu* Braggio and Bonvicino 2004) (Fig. 1). *Wiedomys cerradensis* is known from southwestern Bahia State and southern Tocantins State (Gonçalves et al. 2005, AMR Bezerra unpubl. data), *Tha. cerradensis* from Distrito Federal, southwestern Bahia State, Goiás State, and southeastern Mato Grosso State (Andrade et al. 2004), *Cer. marinhus* from southwestern Bahia and Goiás States, and *Thr. apereoides* from Goiás and Minas Gerais States. *Thalpomys lasiotis*, also considered a Cerrado endemic species (Fig. 1) was found in the study area, and in the extreme northwest of the Cerrado, near the Amazonian region.

The Cerrado is recognized as an important center of South American endemism (Müller 1973, Rizzini 1979, Cracraft 1985, Haffer 1985), which was confirmed for small rodents (Carmignotto 2005). The eastern Cerrado domain together with the Federal District totally or partially encompasses the home ranges of all 16 small endemic Cerrado rodents. The sampled area contains five of these, indicating this region's importance to Cerrado biodiversity, principally because most of these endemic species have restricted distributions and are closely associated with the environment that they inhabit (Bonvicino et al. 2002). The Brazilian Federal District (Distrito Federal) and neighboring areas as well as the Lagoa Santa region in the state of Minas Gerais have been intensely inventoried. Their high comparative endemism (Fig. 1) may be a consequence of this intensive sampling, as shown by Nogueira et al. (2011) for squamate reptiles, identifying 10 endemism areas in the Cerrado domain based on extensive field sampling, data on museum specimens, and the taxonomic literature. We anticipate that the picture shown in figure 1 will change with the intensification of inventories in the Cerrado domain's less-studied areas.

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Appendix 1. List of captured specimens. MN, mammal collection, Museu Nacional, UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; CRB, field number of Cibele R. Bonvicino

DIDELPHIMORPHIA

Cryptonanus agricolai: CRB1658.

Didelphis albiventris: MN66015, CRB11666, CRB1849, CRB1870.

Gracilinanus agilis: MN61651, MN66009-14, CRB1648, CRB1850, CRB2925, CRB2932, CRB2955, CRB2956-8, CRB2965, CRB2969-
CRB2971, CRB2924, CRB2972.

Thylamys karimii: CRB2967.

RODENTIA, Caviinae, *Galea spixii*: MN66028-35, MN61660.

RODENTIA, Eumysopinae, *Thrichomys apereoides* MN61659, MN66017-27, CRB1871, CRB1875, CRB1886, CRB1887, CRB2918,
CRB2923, CRB2937, CRB2938, CRB2946, CRB2968.

RODENTIA, Sigmodontinae

Calomys expulsus: MN61658, MN61606, CRB2966.

Calomys tener: MN61649, MN62641-6, CRB2927, CRB2953.

Cerradomys marinus: MN63810-7, MN63819-35, MN63837-9, MN64836, CRB1577, CRB1585, CRB1601, CRB1645, CRB1673,
CRB1835, CRB1872, CRB1883.

Cerradomys scotti: MN61667, MN61668-72, CRB2920, CRB2940, CRB2933.

Necomys lasiurus: MN61607, MN61654, CRB1610, CRB1669, CRB1825.

Nectomys squamipes: MN63818, CRB1882.

Oecomys gr. *bicolor*: CRB2930, CRB2943, CRB2944, CRB2945, CRB2954.

Oligoryzomys fomesi: MN 62637, MN62638, MN61605, CRB1665, MN62640, CRB1649, CRB1879.

Oxymycterus delator: MN66036-51, CRB1556, CRB1581, CRB1582, CRB1597, CRB1615-7, CRB1642, CRB1832, CRB2921,
CRB2922, CRB2928, CRB2929, CRB2934-6, CRB2939, CRB2941, CRB2942, CRB2948-52, CRB2959, CRB2960-4.

Rhipidomys aff. *macrurus*: MN62177, MN61650, CRB1881, CRB1884, CRB2931, CRB2947.

Thalpomys cerradensis: MN59503.

Thalpomys lasiotis: MN61652, MN62651-9, MN66008, CRB1674.

Wiedomys cerradensis: MN67023, MN61657, MN67022.