



Niche overlap between *Leptodactylus chaquensis* (CEI 1950) and *Leptodactylus podicipinus* (COPE 1862), in an area in the municipality of Cuiabá, Mato Grosso

  <https://doi.org/10.56238/alookdevelopv1-159>

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ABSTRACT

Amphibians are the first tetrapodes (gr. tetra, four + prunes, foot) vertebrates conquering the terrestrial

environment, are important predators of insects and other invertebrates. Considered opportunistic with regard to feeding habits, and the diet of a given species may reflect in part the availability of prey in the habitat. The present work deals with the niche overlap between the species *Leptodactylus chaquensis* and *Leptodactylus podicipinus* based on field collections in the municipality of Cuiabá, Mato Grosso.

Keywords: Amphibians, Ecological Niche, Levins Index, Simpson Diversity Index.

1 INTRODUCTION

Amphibians are the first tetrapodes (gr. tetra, four + prunes, foot) vertebrates conquering the terrestrial environment, are important predators of insects and other invertebrates. Considered opportunistic with regard to feeding habits, and the diet of a given species may reflect in part the availability of prey in the habitat. The present work deals with the niche overlap between the species *Leptodactylus chaquensis* and *Leptodactylus podicipinus* based on field collections in the municipality of Cuiabá, Mato Grosso. The animals were collected only for identification and recording, after which they were released at the same point. Twelve field visits were made between September and August. The samples will be directed to three very common environments in the region: 1 – headquarters area of the properties; 2 – fish farming tank, about 200 m long, 10 m in its narrowest part and 60 m in its widest part; the maximum depth is about 5 m; 3 – Gallery forest that presents arboreal vegetation and a fine herbaceous extract that enters the water body. Anuran samplings were performed at night, using the time-limited search method (PLT), in each of the environments considered. The results presented in niche width calculations of the two species were estimated by the Levins Index, the result of an adaptation of the Simpson Diversity Index (Simpson Reciprocal) and niche overlap was estimated based on the PIANKA methods which provides niche overlap values between 0 and 1.

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