

NEOTROPICAL XENARTHTRANS: a data set of occurrence of xenarthran species in the Neotropics

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Citation: Santos, P. M., A. Bocchiglieri, A. G. Chiarello, A. P. Paglia, A. Moreira, A. C. de Souza, A. M. Abba, A. Paviolo, A. Gatica, A. Z. Medeiro, et al. 2019. NEOTROPICAL XENARTHTRANS: a data set of occurrence of xenarthran species in the Neotropics. *Ecology* 00(00):e02663. 10.1002/ecy.2663

Abstract. Xenarthrans—anteaters, sloths, and armadillos—have essential functions for ecosystem maintenance, such as insect control and nutrient cycling, playing key roles as ecosystem engineers. Because of habitat loss and fragmentation, hunting pressure, and conflicts with domestic dogs, these species have been threatened locally, regionally, or even across their full distribution ranges. The Neotropics harbor 21 species of armadillos, 10 anteaters, and 6 sloths. Our data set includes the families Chlamyphoridae (13), Dasypodidae (7), Myrmecophagidae (3), Bradypodidae (4), and Megalonychidae (2). We have no occurrence data on *Dasypus pilosus* (Dasypodidae). Regarding Cyclopedidae, until recently, only one species was recognized, but new genetic studies have revealed that the group is represented by seven species. In this data paper, we compiled a total of 42,528 records of 31 species, represented by occurrence and quantitative data, totaling 24,847 unique georeferenced records. The geographic range is from the southern United States, Mexico, and Caribbean countries at the northern portion of the Neotropics, to the austral distribution in Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, and Uruguay. Regarding anteaters, *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* has the most records ($n = 5,941$), and *Cyclopes* sp. have the fewest ($n = 240$). The armadillo species with the most data is *Dasypus novemcinctus* ($n = 11,588$), and the fewest data are recorded for *Calyptopractus retusus* ($n = 33$). With regard to sloth species, *Bradypus variegatus* has the most records ($n = 962$), and *Bradypus pygmaeus* has the fewest ($n = 12$). Our main objective with Neotropical Xenarthrans is to make occurrence and quantitative data available to facilitate more ecological research, particularly if we integrate the xenarthran data with other data sets of Neotropical Series that will become

Manuscript received 27 November 2018; revised 29 January 2019; accepted 31 January 2019. Corresponding Editor: William K. Michener.

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available very soon (i.e., Neotropical Carnivores, Neotropical Invasive Mammals, and Neotropical Hunters and Dogs). Therefore, studies on trophic cascades, hunting pressure, habitat loss, fragmentation effects, species invasion, and climate change effects will be possible with the Neotropical Xenarthrans data set. Please cite this data paper when using its data in publications. We also request that researchers and teachers inform us of how they are using these data.

Key words: biodiversity hotspot; cingulata; forest fragmentation; habitat loss; neotropical mammals; neotropical region; pilosa; xenarthra.

The complete data set is available as Supporting Information at: [to be completed at proof stage].