

**CAPTURE OF *Desmodus rotundus* IN FOREST AND MANGROVE AREAS IN MARANHÃO:  
A LONGITUDINAL STUDY**

*(CAPTURA DE Desmodus rotundus EM REGIÕES DE MATA E MANGUEZAIS DO ESTADO DO  
MARANHÃO: UM ESTUDO LONGITUDINAL)*

**R. C.N. ARRUDA<sup>1\*</sup>, F. R. P. BRUHN<sup>2</sup>, T. A. BARÇANTE<sup>3</sup>, J. C.P. S.<sup>4</sup>, D. O. DAHER<sup>5</sup>, J. M.P.  
BARÇANTE<sup>6</sup>**

The present study aimed to investigate the number of captures and the control of the common vampire bat *Desmodus rotundus*, in small farms in the city of Cedral, MA. The bats were captured in cages. After the capture, a control form was filled to identify the locations with the highest number of catches. The results of 223 active searches in 101 rural properties during the period from 2005 to 2010 were studied. A total of 408 bats were captured, distributed in 190 of 223 searches. The anticoagulant vampiricide paste was applied on the back of the captured animals. In the rural properties studied, of a total of 754 animals exposed to the bats, 344 were attacked. Of these, the cattle were the largest food supply to *D. rotundus* (49%), followed by horses (18%), poultry (15%), pigs (9%) and goats (8%). The control program with the vampiricide paste lasted 6 years. The analysis of the data collected during the six years showed that the ratio of *D. rotundus* male and female captured was 1.08 males for every female while in the first year of the study, the ratio was 1.21 females per male. The results also showed that the control was successfully performed in 95% of the studied properties, with an average time of three years of work and up to six captures per property. The examination of the attacked animals showed that the areas of the neck of large animals and goats were hit the hardest. It was concluded that in the mangrove regions and/or forests, pen capture control was effective, being prudent to check the occurrence of new attacks every 15 days in the first three months post-capture.

Support: CNPq/MAPA and FAPEMIG

<sup>1</sup>Médico Veterinário

<sup>2</sup>Doutorando (o) Ciências Veterinárias – Universidade Federal de Lavras (UFLA)

<sup>3</sup>Professor substituto DMV/UFLA

<sup>4</sup>Médico veterinário

<sup>5</sup>Médica veterinária, mestre em ciências veterinárias - UFLA

<sup>6</sup>Orientadora e Professora adjunta – Universidade Federal de Lavras (UFLA) – joziana@dmv.ufla.br