

**OCCURRENCE OF SANDFLY *Lutzomyia longipalpis* IN THE RURAL AREA KNOWN AS
"CINTURÃO VERDE", ILHA SOLTEIRA, SP, BRAZIL**

(OCORRÊNCIA DE FLEBOTOMÍNEOS *Lutzomyia longipalpis* EM ÁREA RURAL
DENOMINADA POR "CINTURÃO VERDE" DO MUNICÍPIO DE ILHA SOLTEIRA ESTADO DE
SÃO PAULO)

**J. C. P. SPADA^{1*}, D. T. DA SILVA¹, K. R. R. MARTINS², L. A. C. RODAS³, H. R. SILVA⁴,
W. A. S. BUZETTI⁴**

Sandflies (*Lutzomyia longipalpis*) were captured using CDC light traps (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) in the rural area known as the "Cinturao Verde" of Ilha Solteira, located in northwestern São Paulo state (20°25'36.47"S and 51°20'26.47" W). Sandflies were captured from 17:00 to 07:00 hours, three consecutive times/days per month, during the period from September 2012 to June 2013. We placed 12 traps outside homes, at strategic points, the closest possible to the animal enclosures. The captured sandflies were separated by gender (male/female). Thus, on 9/12 (75%) of the farms visited, we found the presence of the mosquito vector of leishmaniasis. The monthly total counts of *L. longipalpis* were correlated with monthly average temperature (°C) and rainfall (mm) data obtained from the Meteorological Station of the Área de Hidráulica e Irrigação of UNESP, Ilha Solteira. The results showed increasing numbers of *L. longipalpis* in the rainy season, with peaks in December 2012, February and May, 2013. The highest number of collected insects was 12 Males and 7 Females (December and May), a male/female ratio of 2.2. The highest rainfall was registered in January (301.7 mm), with slight decrease in subsequent months (varying from 143 to 4 mm). On the other hand, monthly average temperature did not vary much during the period, ranging from 28.1°C (October/2012) to 22°C (June/2013), with a maximum of 41.8°C measured in October/2012. The vector occurrence curve may have been affected by the rainfall since increased humidity promotes the formation/maintenance of breeding nests of these insects, which prefer moist and warm organic matter to reproduce.

¹ Mestrando da UNESP Campus de Ilha Solteira – SP: juliospadamv@yahoo.com.br

² Médica Veterinária de Araçatuba - SP

³ Vigilante Sanitária SUCEN de Araçatuba – SP

⁴ Professores Doutores da UNESP de Ilha Solteira - SP