

BATS RESCUE IN BOTUCATU, SP DURING 2012

(*QUIROPTEROS RESGATADOS NA CIDADE DE BOTUCATU/SP NO ANO DE 2012*)

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Bats are mammals of the order *Chiroptera* and represent about 25% of all known mammal species. They contribute greatly to the natural balance as pollinators, seed spreaders and controllers of insect populations. However, they can transmit several diseases, among which rabies stands out. According to the Ministry of Health, about 12% of cases of human rabies are transmitted by bats, thus ranking them as the second most important order in the transmission of rabies in Brazil, surpassed only by the Order *Carnivora*. The present study aimed to demonstrate the statistical analysis of bats rescued in 2012 by the Vigilância Ambiental em Saúde in the urban area of Botucatu, SP. The information collected was stored in a EXCEL spreadsheet database. During the study period, the 260 animals rescued were classified according to their eating habits as: frugivores, 3; hematophagous, 1; insectivores, 217; nectarivorous, 9; piscivorous, 1; and, not informed, 29. Regarding their Family, 206 were *Molossidae*; 1 *Noctilionidae*; 13 *Phyllostomidae*; 19 *Vespertilionidae*; and, 21 not informed. From the total bats rescued, 128 were referred for diagnosis of rabies, with negative results in 100% of samples. Several species of bats live in urban ecosystems, using resources provided by man, directly or indirectly, such as buildings, plants and night lighting. The results showed that the ecological changes in wild ecosystems have contributed significantly to the increase of bat colonies in urban areas.

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