

## 272- Diversity, distribution and ecology of intertidal ghost shrimps (Decapoda: Callianassidea-Thalassinidea) along the Brazilian coast (2°-32° S): partial outcomes

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Ghost shrimps (Callianassidea-Thalassinidea) are classified as ecosystem engineers due to their ability to modify, maintain and/or create new habitats in marine communities from shallow environments. Here we described the diversity, distribution and ecology of intertidal ghost shrimps from Brazil, based on a collecting program (June and July 2016) along the southwestern Atlantic (2°-31° S). A total of 957 specimens of intertidal ghost shrimps were collected during the study period, which were distributed in ten species and three families: Axianassidae (one species), Callianassidae (seven species) and Upogebiidae (two species). *Callichirus major* and *Sergio mirim* (Callianassidae) showed a wide latitudinal distribution covering from the South region to Northeast (5°-27° S) and South (17°-32° S) of the Brazilian coast, respectively. The remaining species were restricted to small geographical areas or specific habitats of the coast of Brazil (e.g., tidal flats, mangrove areas, estuaries). Most species were found solitarily within its own burrow, except for the two upogebiid species that were found in pairs. Two species of pinnotherid crabs (*Austinixa aida* and *A. patagoniensis*) were found inhabiting galleries of *C. major*, *S. mirim* and *Lepidophthalmus siriboia*. Only two out of total females collected (495) were ovigerous, which suggests that these species breed seasonally in the Brazilian coast. These results constitute our preliminary approach to improve the current knowledge on intertidal ghost shrimps of the Brazilian coast.

**Palavras-chave:** Decapods, biodiversity, South Western Atlantic.

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