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The Cerrado Mammals: Diversity, Ecology, and Natural History

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THE FIRST FORMAL RECORDS OF CERRADO MAMMALS WERE MADE by one of the first Brazilian scientists, Alexandre R. Ferreira, who from 1783 to 1792 explored the provinces of Grão-Pará, Rio Negro, Mato Grosso, and Cuiabá (Hershkovitz 1987). However, only in the second half of the 20th century have Brazilian zoologists made the transition from a merely taxonomic treatment of the fauna towards a more naturalistic and ecological approach. Herein we present a review and analysis of the available information on natural history and geographical ranges of species and groups of the cerrado mammalian fauna, delineating patterns, making comparisons with other tropical savannas, and indicating lacunas and lines of investigation remaining to be explored.

DATABASE OF CERRADO MAMMALS

We followed Wilson and Reeder (1993) as a guide for the taxonomic status and distribution of mammals. Since the limits of the distributional ranges of most Brazilian mammals are far from well defined, we established the database on the distribution of Brazilian mammals from a number of different sources, including comprehensive works such as Vieira (1942), Moojen (1952), Cabrera (1957, 1961), Alho (1982), Koopman (1982, 1993), Streilein (1982), Emmons and Feer (1990), and Eisenberg and Redford (1999); published compilations with analyses on local and/or regional faunas, such as Schaller (1983), Redford and Fonseca