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Management of *pindo* palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana* Arecaceae) in rearing of Coleoptera edible larvae by the Guarani of Northeastern Argentina

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ABSTRACT

Rearing of coleopteran larvae on palm tree stems as a food source is extended among Amerindian groups is as a food source as coleopteran larvae are reared on their stems. Guarani groups settled in the province of Misiones, in northeastern Argentina, consume three species of Dryophthoridae larvae (*Metamasius hemipterus, Rhynchophorus palmarum* and *Rhinostomus barbirostris*) which are rear in the stipes of *Syagrus romanzoffiana* palm. This work deals with the management of the different stages of growth of this palm to promote the development of the three edible larvae species. Field observation suggests a great knowledge of these insects ecology and of the differential characteristics of the palm tree wood anatomical structure throughout its ontogenic development. This constitutes the first record of the use of *Metamasius hemipterus* as food for the Mbya Guarani people.

Keywords: Atlantic Forest; Edible Insects; *Metamasius hemipterus*; *Rhinostomus barbirostris*; *Rhynchophorus palmarum*; Ethnoentomology.

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INTRODUCTION

Insects occupy an important space in the socio-economic development of peoples (Costa Neto 2004). The study of insects as food, as well as the knowledge and management associated with this use are part of the main objectives of Ethnoentomology (Posey 1987).

The consumption of edible insects has been documented since the Paleolithic (Hernández-Pacheco 1921). This habit is present all over the planet and sometimes species of the same genus are used and raised similarly in all continents (Ramos-Elorduy et al. 2009). Based on the empirical