Lundiana 6(2), 2005

ISSN 1676-6180

Atividades fenológicas de *Guazuma ulmifolia* Lam. (Malvaceae) em uma Floresta Estacional Decidual no norte de Minas Gerais

Yule R. F. Nunes*, Marcílio Fagundes, Rubens M. Santos, Ellen B. S. Domingues, Hisaias S. Almeida & Anne Priscila D. Gonzaga

Laboratório de Ecologia e Propagação Vegetal, Departamento de Biologia Geral, Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros, Av. Dr. Ruy Braga S/N, Vila Mauricéia, 39401-089, Montes Claros, MG, Brasil. (*autor para correspondência). E-mail: yule.nunes@unimontes.br

Abstract

Studies on plant phenology produce important insights about plant adaptations to climatic changes and its associated herbivore fauna. This study reports annual phenological variations in *Guazuma ulmifolia* (Malvaceae), correlating the timing of these phenological events with local climatic variables. The phenology of *G. ulmifolia* was studied in the COPASA Preservation Area, north of Minas Gerais State, Brazil, from June 2001 to June 2003. Twenty trees were systematically observed bimonthly for changes in six phenological phases: (1) flower buds, (2) flowering, (3) immature fruits, (4) mature fruits, (5) leaf fall and (6) leaf flushing. The flowering of *G. ulmifolia* did not show a consistent pattern during the study. In fact, only in 2002 a synchronism in flowering was evident, with flower buds occurring from August to November and flowers from August to December. Immature fruits occurred mostly from January to September and mature fruits were observed from May to December. Leaf fall showed a negative correlation with temperature and precipitation, indicating that it increases in the dry and cold season. Leaf flushing did not show an annual consistent cycle, but this phenological phase tended to occur mostly during the rainy season.

Key-words: Phenology, *Guazuma ulmifolia*, mutamba, environmental seasonality.