

## Population dynamics and spatial distribution of the *Calosoma granulatum* Perty., 1830 (Coleoptera: Carabidae) in soybean/corn crop

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### Abstract

The (*Calosoma granulatum* Perty., 1830) (Coleoptera: Carabidae) is an important predator of agricultural pests. The knowledge about the spatial and temporal behavior and influence of the environmental structure may be fundamental for the application of conservative biological control. This study evaluated whether phenology of cultivated plants and meteorological factors influencing the occurrence and spatial distribution of the predaceous beetle (*Calosoma granulatum*) in soybean/corn crop. Three hypotheses were tested: H1: that this predaceous beetle occurs naturally in aggregated spatial patterns; H2: its presence/absence in agricultural fields is influenced by meteorological factors; and H3: the presence of the beetle bank in crop fields affects the carabid spatial distribution patterns. To test these hypotheses, we measured annual population fluctuations to examine the influence of meteorological factors, and to determinate the spatial distribution using dispersion indices and probabilistic models based on the *Calosoma granulatum* frequency distribution in one hectare of soybean/corn crop using multiple regression analysis (stepwise). The results showed that population peaks of the beetle in soybean crop were coincident with their reproductive period regardless of meteorological factors. The analyses of the spatial distributions showed that *Calosoma granulatum* has a clustered distribution, and the highest numbers were observed in soybean crop. These results support the hypothesis that the beetles have an aggregated pattern. However, the hypotheses that the occurrence and distribution of this predator is directly influenced by environmental distribution factors and by the presence of herbaceous refuge is not supported.

**Keywords:** Carabid beetles, dispersion indexes, *Glycine max*, linear interpolation, natural pest control, predator, *Zea mays*.

### Introduction

There is a great diversity and abundance of arthropods that can be found in soybean and corn fields (Cividanes and Yamamoto, 2002; Adams et al., 2017). Nevertheless, the vast majority of studies on arthropods associated with these crops have related to phytophagous insects, probably because of the injury that these organisms cause to crops (Kogan and Turnipseed, 1987). These authors also reported that the natural biological control of soybean crop has been effective, mainly due to the action of arthropod predators. Therefore, ecological studies on those organisms are also required.

The main arthropods predators associated with soil in soybean and corn crops are spiders, rove beetles, ground beetles, earwigs and ants (Bechinski and Pedigo, 1981; Cividanes, 2002; Cividanes et al., 2009). The ground beetles are among the most abundant predators (Witmer et al., 2003). The ground beetles play multiple roles in the ecosystem. They are reported as predators of agricultural pests (Kromp, 1999), seed predators (Honek et al., 2006) and environmental quality indicators (Pearce and Venier, 2006).

The implementation of refuge areas (beetle banks) in agricultural fields may benefit conservative biological control. Collins et al. (2003) verified that beetle bank can benefit the occurrence of polyphagous predators in agricultural fields. Thomas et al. (1992) reported that carabid species preferably occurs at the boundary (boundary species) or crops (open-field species). The use of refuge islands (beetle banks) within the cultures can increase the effectiveness of boundary species in biological control. Martins et al. (2016) reported that the predator *Abaris basistriata* Chaudoir, 1873 (Carabidae) used the beetle bank as a refuge island in unfavorable periods in agricultural areas.

The species *Calosoma granulatum* Perty, 1830, is a predator carabid commonly found in areas cultivated with soybeans (Brondani et al., 2008; Lietti et al., 2008). In laboratory studies, this species consumed a great number of *Anticarsia gemmatilis* Hübner, 1818 larvae causing high mortality rates (above 90%) (Pasini 1991, 1995; Cividanes et al., 2014).

Several biotic and abiotic factors influence the occurrence of carabids in agroecosystems such as temperature, humidity, food supply, presence of competitors and reproductive behavior (Lövei and Sunderland, 1996). These factors can also affect the spatial distribution of carabids and change the aggregation of the species (Dennis et al., 2002).

According to Taylor (1984), most studies on spatial distribution are related to insect pests of agricultural systems. However, knowledge of the spatial distribution of natural enemies seems to be essential for the understanding of natural and applied biological control and development of strategies to be implemented in integrated pest management (Hajek, 2004). The use of tools for the Geostatistics is valuable to investigate the behavior and spatial pattern of insect populations and to support integrated pest management (Sciarretta and Trematerra, 2014).

The structure and environmental conditions may interfere with the occurrence of insects in agricultural areas and beetle *Calosoma granulatum* presents potential in the biological control of pests. The following research questions were elaborated: How is the spatial and temporal behavior of *Calosoma granulatum* in an agricultural area? Meteorological factors, phenological stages of cultivated plants and the presence of beetle bank influence this behavior? To answer these questions, we elaborate the following hypotheses, H1: The spatial patterns of this predatory beetle occur naturally in aggregate form; H2: its presence / absence in agricultural fields is influenced by meteorological factors and phenological stages of cultivated plants; and H3: the presence of the beetle bank in the cultivated fields benefits the occurrence of *Calosoma granulatum*. Based on the questions and hypotheses the objectives of this study were to analyze the population dynamics and spatial distribution of adult *Calosoma granulatum* in soybean / corn crops with the presence of a beetle bank.

## Results and discussion

### Occurrence of *Calosoma granulatum*

Throughout the sample period, there was a total of 366 specimens of *C. granulatum*, of which 317 (86.61%) specimens occurred in soybean, indicating mean number of 3.3 equivalent per trap specimens, and only 49 specimens in the area of refuge (Table 1). Plots of the grass *Panicum maximum* Jacq. and the legume *Calopogonium mucunoides* Desv. were those with the larger number of specimens, 18 and 15, respectively, when compared to the plots of the grass *Cynodon* spp. and the legume *Stylosanthes* spp. in the beetle bank (Table 1). The *C. granulatum* beetle has a preference for occurring in agricultural areas, mainly soybean crop, being considered a dominant species in this environment (Martins et al., 2009; Martins et al., 2012).

### Population dynamics

The population fluctuation of *C. granulatum* demonstrated that the species was present during almost the entire study period, being absent only in five of 27 samples carried out. The highest population peaks of this species occurred in the seasons of soybean during the month of February (Fig. 2). Moreover, it was observed peak population *C. granulatum* in

periods of high rainfall, and maximum and minimum temperatures around 30°C and 20°C, respectively. However, the only meteorological factor that showed significant regression coefficient of 10% was the minimum temperature, which explained only 10.37% of the observed variation in the occurrence of *C. granulatum* (parameter: 2.44191,  $F = 2.89$ ,  $R^2 = 0.1037$ ). The statistical results do show the influence of the meteorological factors analyzed on the occurrence of *C. granulatum*. However, Fig. 2 shows a trend of increasing population in periods of high humidity due to rainfall and high temperatures. Martins et al. (2009) verified that rainfall influenced positively the occurrence of *C. granulatum* in the soybean crop. Barros et al. (2006) report the peak population of *C. granulatum* in cotton, 55 days after emergence of the crop, period with high temperature and humidity.

The variation in population density with the phenological phases of the soybeans showed that the highest population peaks occurs during the reproductive period of soybean (Fig. 3). However, the developmental stage of highest occurrence differed in seasons. In 2008/09, population peak occurred in the R3 up to R5 stage (beginning of fruit set to the beginning of grain filling), while in 2009/10 season, the peak occurred in the R1 and R2 stages (beginning of flowering and full flowering) (Fig. 3). Similar results were observed by Pegoraro and Foerster (1988) that verified a highest incidence of *C. granulatum* between R2 and R6 soybean stages. Other carabids of the genus *Callida* and *Lebia* (Didonet et al., 2003) and *Abaris* (Martins et al., 2016) were also observed with highest occurrence in the reproductive stage of soybean.

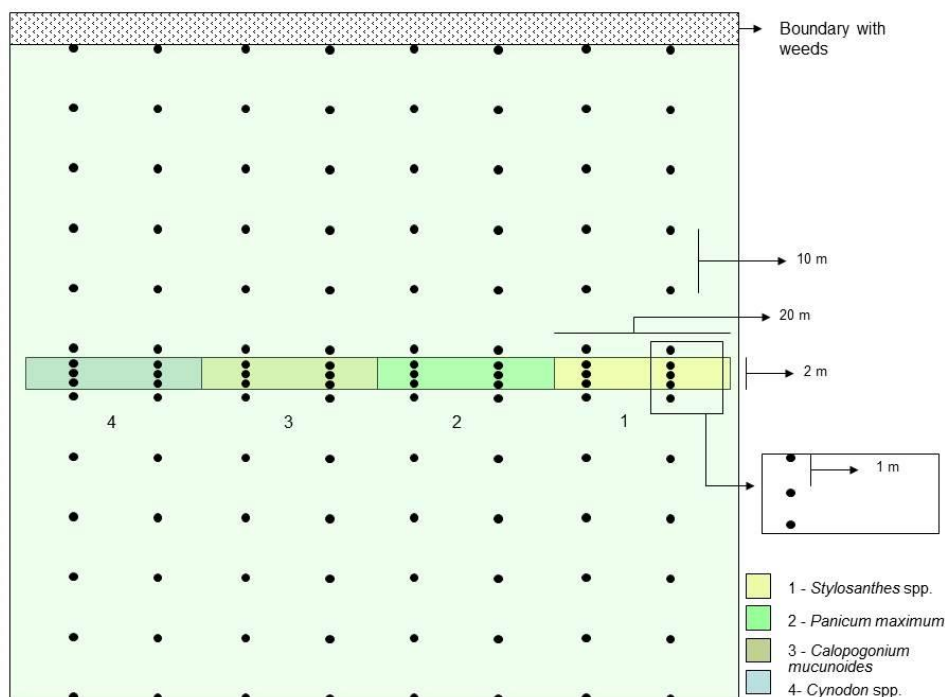
The population peaks were occurred in the same period of the year (February), when the soybeans did not have the same developmental stage. Also, a low correlation with temperature and rainfall was observed that may indicate that the occurrence of *C. granulatum* is cyclical and related to other environmental factors. The presence of the prey is one of the factors that may influence the occurrence of *C. granulatum*. Bueno et al. (2012) reported that from December to early April, there is a large occurrence of *C. granulatum* larvae in the soybean crop, and that these are voracious predators of the soybean caterpillar (*A. gemmatilis*). Didonet et al. (2003) found that the caterpillar *A. gemmatilis* has population peaks mainly in the reproductive period of soybean, being able to attract and increase in population of this predator in the culture.

The mean population of *C. granulatum* was higher in soybean at 2008/09 season than in 2009/10 (Table 2). The values obtained in the variance/mean (i) were higher than unit in four dates in the 2008/09 season (Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> and Mar 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009) and five dates in 2009/10 (Feb 03<sup>rd</sup>, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, Mar 24<sup>th</sup> and Apr 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010), coinciding with the periods of highest occurrence of *C. granulatum* (Table 2), demonstrating that this predator has a clustered distribution. The values given in Morisita index ( $I_{\delta}$ ) also indicated aggregation of the beetle, in the same period of highest occurrence. Aggregate spatial distribution seems to be the standard for this species. Barros et al. (2006), used Morisita index and found that *C. granulatum* also has aggregate distribution in cotton.

The values obtained for the k parameter of negative binomial distribution, estimated by the method of moments, showed positive values but lower than two in all dates of

**Table 1.** *Calosoma granulatum* specimens sampled in the experimental area. Jaboticabal, SP, Brazil, 2008, 2009 and 2010. (% = Percent of the total of specimens; Mean number = number of specimens / number of traps).

Area sampling	Specimens number	%	Mean number
Arable field	317	86.6	3.3
<i>Calopogonium mucunoides</i>	15	4.1	2.5
<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	8	2.19	1.3
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	18	4.92	3.0
<i>Stylosanthes</i> spp.	8	2.19	1.3
Total	366	100	

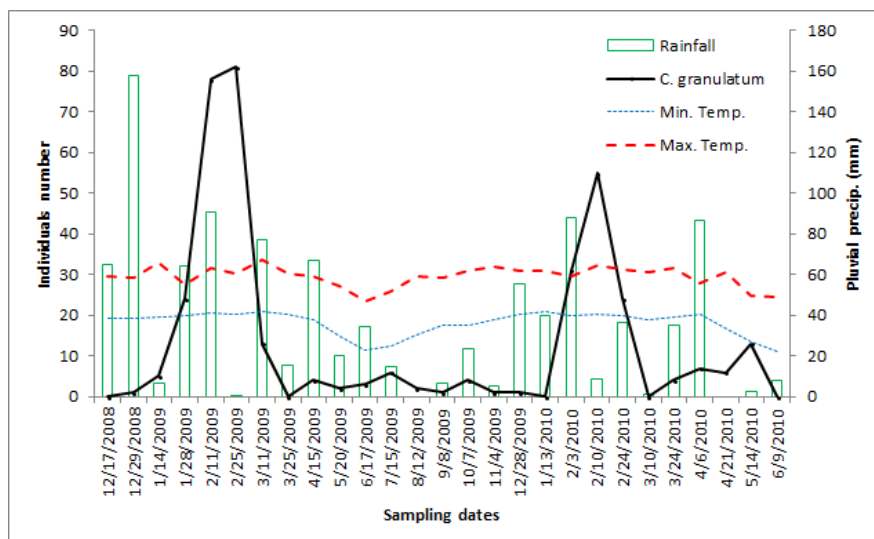


**Fig 1.** Design of the experimental area showing the position of the beetle bank (central bar). Dots represent location of traps. The central beetle bank was surrounded by a soybean field (season: 2008/09 and 2009/10), a corn field (offseason: 2009), and fallow (offseason: 2010).

**Table 2.** Means, variances and dispersion indexes for the occurrence of *Calosoma granulatum* throughout the sampling period. Jaboticabal, SP - Brazil.

Indexes	Soybean crop								Corn crop					
m	0.0000	0.0083	0.0417	0.2000	0.6500	0.6750	0.1083	0.0000	0.0333	0.0167	0.0250	0.0500	0.0167	0.0083
s <sup>2</sup>	-	0.0083	0.0403	0.6151	1.1370	0.9607	0.1646	-	0.0325	0.0165	0.0246	0.0479	0.0165	1.0000
l = s <sup>2</sup> /m	-	1.0000	0.9664	3.0756	1.7492	1.4233	1.5197	-	0.9748	0.9916	0.9832	0.9580	0.9916	0.0000
l <sub>6</sub>	-	0.0000	0.0000	11.7391	2.1578	1.6296	6.1538	-	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	119.00
X <sup>2</sup> l <sub>6</sub>	-	119.00	115.00	366.00	208.15	169.37	180.85	-	116.00	118.00	117.00	114.00	118.00	-
K mom	-	-	-1.2396	0.0964	0.8676	1.5947	0.2084	-	-1.3222	-1.9833	-1.4875	-1.1900	-1.9833	-
Cx	-	-	-0.0084	0.0902	0.0097	0.0053	0.0433	-	-0.0084	-0.0084	-0.0084	-0.0084	-0.0084	-
Indexes	Fallow				Soybean crop				Fallow					
m	0.0333	0.0083	0.0417	0.0000	0.2583	0.4583	0.2000	0.0000	0.0333	0.0583	0.0500	0.1083	0.0000	
s <sup>2</sup>	0.0325	0.0083	0.0403	-	0.6302	0.7377	0.2622	-	0.0493	0.0554	0.0647	0.0974	-	
l = s <sup>2</sup> /m	0.9748	1.0000	0.9664	-	2.4394	1.6096	1.3109	-	1.4790	0.9496	1.2941	0.8992	-	
l <sub>6</sub>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	-	6.7097	2.3434	2.6087	-	20.0000	0.0000	8.0000	0.0000	-	
X <sup>2</sup> l <sub>6</sub>	116.00	119.00	115.00	-	290.29	191.55	156.00	-	176.00	113.00	154.00	107.00	-	
K mom	-1.3222	-	-1.2396	-	0.1795	0.7518	0.6432	-	0.0696	-1.1569	0.1700	-1.0743	-	
Cx	-0.0084	-	-0.0084	-	0.0480	0.0113	0.0135	-	0.1597	-0.0084	0.0588	-0.0084	-	

m = sample mean; s<sup>2</sup> = variance; l = variance/mean; l<sub>6</sub> = Morisita index; X<sup>2</sup> l<sub>6</sub> = chi-square test of adherence to the values calculated for the Morisita index; k mom = k calculated by the method of moments; Cx = coefficient of Green.

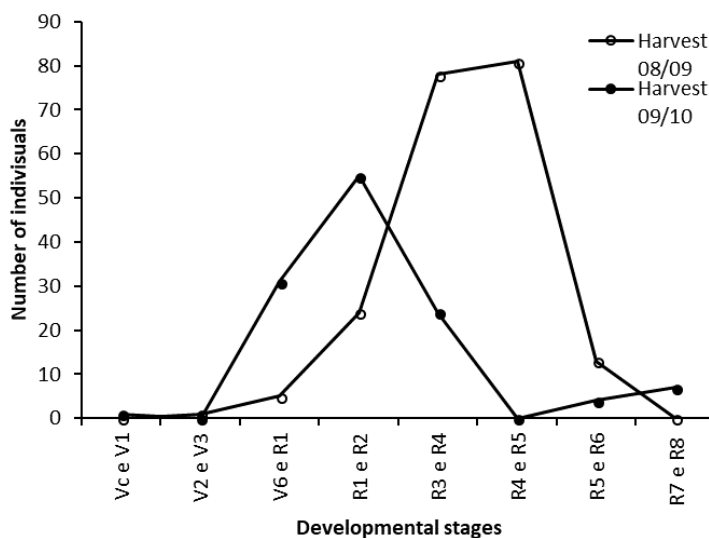


**Fig 2.** Population fluctuation of *Calosoma granulatum*, rainfall and maximum and minimum temperature during the entire sampling period, Jaboticabal, SP - Brazil.

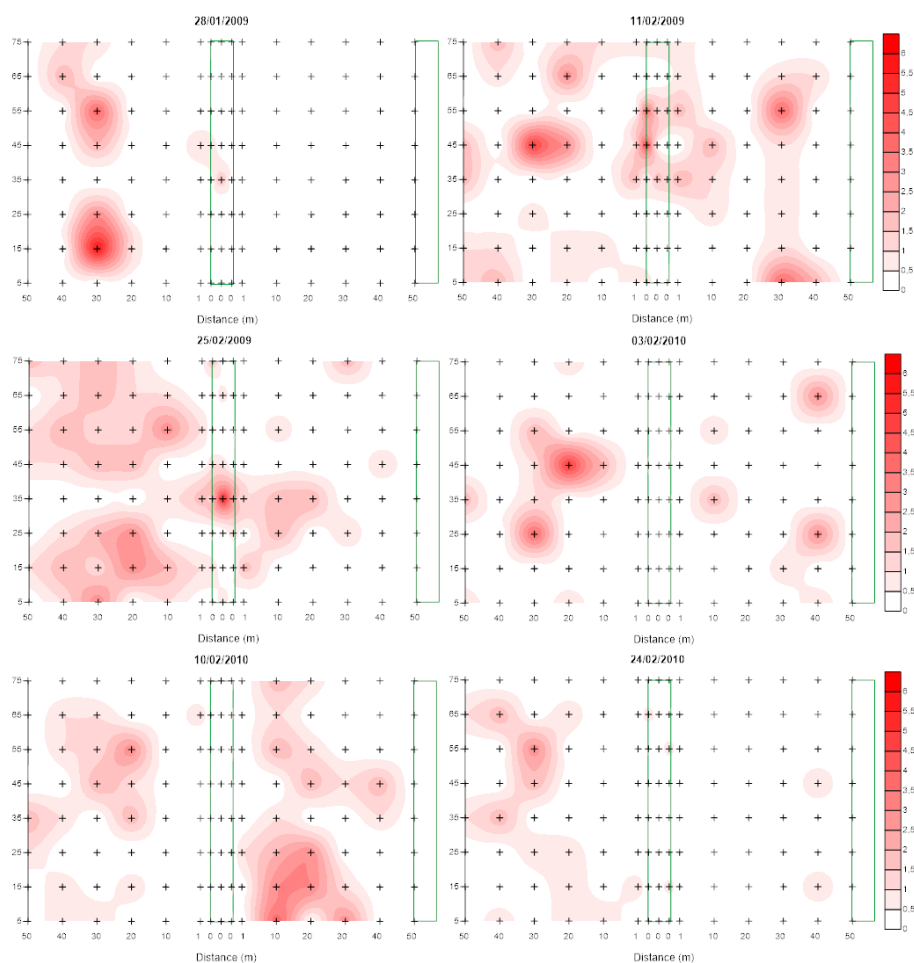
**Table 3.** Results obtained in the chi-square to adjust the Poisson and negative binomial distributions data of adults *Calosoma granulatum*. Jaboticabal, SP - Brazil.

Dates	Poisson			Negative Binominal		
	$\chi^2$	df	p	$\chi^2$	df	p
28/01/2009	12.4814**	1	0.0004	0.8589 <sup>ns</sup>	2	0.6509
11/02/2009	5.9008*	2	0.0523	2.7435 <sup>ns</sup>	3	0.4329
25/02/2009	6.1868 <sup>ns</sup>	3	0.1029	4.3003 <sup>ns</sup>	2	0.1165
03/02/2010	12.1130**	1	0.0005	1.0612 <sup>ns</sup>	2	0.5882
10/02/2010	17.2353**	2	0.0002	2.7046 <sup>ns</sup>	2	0.2586
24/02/2010	1.5601 <sup>ns</sup>	1	0.2116	IDF	IDF	IDF

$\chi^2$  = Statistics of the chi-square; df. = number of degrees of freedom chi-square; p = probability level of the chi-square; \* Significant at 5% probability; \*\* Significant at 1% probability; <sup>ns</sup> No significant at 5% probability; IDF = insufficient degree of freedom.



**Fig 3.** Population fluctuation of *Calosoma granulatum* in relation to developmental stages of the soybean, Jaboticabal, SP - Brazil. Soybean phenological stages: vegetative = Vc-V6; flowering = R1 and R2; fruiting = R3-R6; maturation = R7 and R8.



**Fig 4.** Maps of linear interpolation of *Calosoma granulatum* adults during the periods, when there was an adjustment to the models of spatial distribution (soybean). The area delimited and zero distance corresponds to the beetle bank. The area delimited on the right, the border of the cultivated area, and the + sign corresponds to the position of the traps in the soil; darkening indicates a higher density of insects. Jaboticabal, SP - Brazil.

highest occurrence of adult *C. granulatum*, indicating high aggregation of the beetle. This distribution was confirmed by analysis of the coefficient of Green, which in the same dates showed values higher than zero, indicating aggregate distribution of the population (Table 2).

The results obtained in the chi-square for the Morisita index indicated departure from randomness in the dates of highest incidence of *C. granulatum*, but at the other randomness dates was not rejected (Table 2).

Initially, the adjustment of the data was tested to a probabilistic model of the Poisson distribution. However, the model of the Negative Binomial distribution was used because the mean was lower than the variance in the dates of occurrence of *C. granulatum* (Table 2).

In six evaluations, where the degrees of freedom were sufficient for the analysis, the majority of the chi-square values were significant at 1% or 5% probability for the adjustment of the Poisson distribution. It was not significant in only two dates, demonstrating that most of the evaluation was not randomly distributed (Table 3). Considering the negative binomial distribution, the values were not significant in all evaluations, in which there was sufficient degree of freedom, confirming the clustered distribution of *C. granulatum* (Table 3).

Samples that were adjusted to the probabilistic models of spatial distribution were used to obtain maps of linear interpolation, which provided the visualization of the distribution of clusters from *C. granulatum*, determined by dispersion index and adjustment to the negative binomial distribution model (Fig. 4).

The refuge areas may act as areas of aggregation of some carabids species (Collins et al., 2002; Martins et al., 2016). In the present study, this hypothesis was rejected because the majority of aggregation of *C. granulatum* was occurred in the area cultivated with soybeans, demonstrating that this species prefers to concentrate in this habitat (Fig. 4). These results corroborate with those reported by Cividanes and Santos-Cividanes (2008) and Cividanes et al. (2009) that found a preference for *C. granulatum* to occur in areas of annual crops.

Based on the results, it was verified that the occurrence and clustered distribution of *C. granulatum* in areas of soybean is slightly related to meteorological factors (temperature and pluvial rainfall), phenological stages and the presence of refuge area. In future studies, new variables must be included and analyzed separately or in groups, to better clarify the behavior of this predator.

## Materials and methods

### Experimental area

This study was carried out in a 100 × 100-m area located on 10 ha of land that belongs to the Faculty of Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences (FCAV), São Paulo State University (UNESP), Jaboticabal Municipality, SP, Brazil (latitude: 21°15'29" south and longitude: 48°16'54" west).

Based on the methods described by Collins et al. (2003), a beetle bank 80-m-long, 2-m-wide, and 40-cm-high space at the center of this area was implanted as a shelter island (also known as refuge or beetle island) for the natural enemies (Fig. 1). This beetle bank was divided into four 20-m plots cultivated with the following perennial herbaceous plant types: *Panicum maximum* 'Massai', *Cynodon* spp. 'Tifton 85', *Stylosanthes* spp. 'BRS Campo Grande', and *Calopogonium mucunoides* 'Common' (Fig. 1). To select herbaceous plants to be used in areas of refuge, several characteristics were considered such as rapid growth, resistance to adverse conditions of humidity and temperature, low need for cultivation, durability and reduced potential of becoming weeds (Thomas et al., 1992; MacLeod et al., 2004).

The remaining of the field was cultivated with: i) soybeans during the 2008/09 and 2009/10 season, ii) corn in 2009 off-season, and iii) kept in fallow during 2010 off-season, after soybean harvest. During all experimentation period, no insecticide applications were made, but there were two applications of fungicides and herbicides in each season of soybeans, between the months of January and February. The sowing of soybean in 2008/09 season occurred on December 05<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and harvest on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, while in 2009/10 the sowing and harvest occurred on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, respectively. Corn was sown on April 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 and harvest occurred on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### Sampling insects

Beetles were collected using pitfall traps made with 500 ml plastic cups (80 mm diameter x 140 mm high) containing a mixture of water (150ml), formaldehyde (1%) and some drops of neutral detergent. Each trap was covered with a 15 cm diameter hard plastic and installed 3cm above the trap. Sampling frequency was every 15 days during the season and once in a month in the off-season. They were kept from December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to June 09<sup>th</sup>, 2010, for a total of 27 sampling dates. The traps were installed in the field for a week, and they were subsequently removed and sent to the laboratory for screening, assembly, and specimen labeling. For each block of herbaceous plants, six traps (separated by 1 meter) were installed in two parallel rows, keeping a distance of 10 m from each other (Fig. 1). In the field, traps were installed using distribution grid, based on the method used by Holland et al. (1999) and Thomas et al. (2002). Concerning the traps located in the surrounding field crops, the first row of them was kept 1 m apart from the beetle bank area and 10 m apart from each other all over the remaining area.

### Meteorological factor

To study the influence of meteorological factor on the fluctuations in the population of Carabid beetles, the total

number of specimens of *C. granulatum* occurring in all the traps during the sampling period was considered. This was accomplished by using multiple regression analysis with variable selection using the "stepwise" procedure of SAS (Draper and Smith, 1981) and considering 10% of significance as the threshold for the inclusion or exclusion of independent variables (temperature and rain). Meteorological factors considered included maximum and minimum temperatures (°C) and rainfall (mm). The meteorological data used were gathered from the area of Agrometeorology, FCAV/UNESP in Jaboticabal. In order to run the analysis, mean week temperatures and the sum of week rainfall prior (one week before) to the sampling day were used.

### Phenological stages

Phenological stages of the cultivated plants were determined on the day of sampling, and the dominant phenological phase around each trap was visually observed. The dominant phenological phases were determined using the percentage of individuals verified on the basis of the presence or absence of plants with a determined phenology, according to the methodology used by Bencke and Morellato (2002). This method is a quantitative analysis at the population level and determines the percentage of individuals in the population of plants that expresses particular phenological event. The phenological stages of the soybeans were assessed in accordance with the description of Fehr et al. (1971) and Câmara (1998).

### Spatial distribution

To determine the spatial distribution of adult *C. granulatum*, the mean ( $\hat{m}$ ) and variance ( $s^2$ ) were calculated and used for the estimation of the dispersion indexes: variance/mean ( $I$ ), Morisita index ( $I_\delta$ ), coefficient of Green ( $C_x$ ) and  $k$  estimated by the method of moments. The frequency distribution data were tested to determine whether the data fit Poisson and negative binomial distributions.

The relationship of variances and means were calculated as a way to measure the deviation from a random arrangement of conditions. Values equal to unity indicates random spatial distribution, in which values lower than unity indicate a uniform distribution; and values greater than unity, aggregate distribution (Rabinovich, 1980). This index was calculated by the following formula:

$$I = \frac{s^2}{\hat{m}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \hat{m})^2}{\hat{m}(n-1)}$$

Where:  $s^2$  = sample variance;  $\hat{m}$  = sample mean;  $x_i$  = number of *C. granulatum* found in the sampling unit;  $n$  = number of sample units.

The Morisita index ( $I_\delta$ ) indicates the random distribution when it is equal to 1, contagious distribution when it is greater than 1, and regular when it is lower than 1, Morisita (1962) developed the following formula:

$$I_\delta = n \frac{\sum [x_i(x_i - 1)]}{\sum x_i (\sum x_i - 1)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \sum x_i}{(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)^2 - \sum x_i}$$

Where:  $n$  = number of sample units;  $x_i$  = number of *C. granulatum* found in the sampling units;  $\sum x_i$  = number of individuals found in the sample units.

Test for randomness is given by:

$$\chi^2_{\delta} = I_{\delta} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - 1 \right) + n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sim \chi^2_{(n-1)}$$

If  $\chi^2_{\delta} \geq \chi^2_{(n-1) g.l.; 0,05}$ , the hypothesis of randomness is rejected.

The coefficient of Green (Cx) values range from negative to uniform distributions. Values equal to 0 denote random distributions, and values equal to 1 indicate maximum contagion (Green, 1966). The index is based on variance/mean distributions

$$Cx = \left[ \left( \frac{s^2}{\bar{m}} \right) - 1 \right] / \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - 1 \right]$$

Probabilistic models were adjusted to study the distribution frequency of the species: Data from each sample were tested to check if the Poisson distribution is adjusted. The hypothesis is when the data adjusted into this model is that all specimens are likely equal to occupy a certain space, and the presence of an individual does not affect the presence of another, and the variance equals the mean ( $\sigma^2 = \mu$ ) (Barbosa and Perecin, 1982). In cases where the variance is greater than the mean ( $\sigma^2 > \mu$ ) aggregation of individuals occurs, i.e., the presence of an individual increases the chance that another occurs in the same unit. Then data adjusts to the negative binomial distribution (Barbosa and Perecin, 1982). In that case, first it is necessary to estimate the k exponent of the negative binomial distribution: through the method of moments and given by the following formula:

$$k = \frac{\hat{m}^2}{s^2 - \hat{m}}$$

When this variable assumes negative values, a uniform distribution is assumed; when the values are low and positive ( $k < 2$ ), a highly aggregated value is present; values ranging from 2-8 indicate moderate aggregation and values greater than 8 ( $k > 8$ ) account for random aggregation (Elliott, 1979).

For both Poisson and negative binomial distributions, the models are properly adjusted when the frequency data observed and expected values are close. The closeness of these data is compared by the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ), given by:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} \frac{(FO_i - FE_i)^2}{FE_i}$$

Where:  $FO_i$  = observed frequency in the ith class;  $FE_i$  = expected frequency in the ith class;  $nc$  = number of classes of the frequency distribution.

The number of degrees of freedom in the  $\chi^2$  test is given by:

$$D.F. = N_c - N_p - 1$$

Where:  $N_c$  = number of classes of the frequency distribution;  $N_p$  = number of estimated parameters in the sample.

The test criterion used was to reject the adjustment of the distribution studied at 5% probability if:

$$\chi^2 \geq \chi^2_{(N_c - N_p - 1; \alpha = 0,05)}$$

To illustrate and verify the aggregational and spatial distribution, maps of linear interpolation were used. We demonstrated the values of the observed frequency at the sampling points and the interpolation between points. Surfer 11.0 (Golden Software Inc, 2012) for Windows software was used to obtain the maps of interpolation.

## Conclusion

The *Calosoma granulatum* presents an aggregated pattern of spatial distribution with preference in occurrence in soybean, especially during the reproductive period of the crop. The temperature, rainfall factors and beetle bank have low influence on the occurrence of this predatory beetle.

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