Biomass of Eichhornia crassipes, (Mart) Solms. In the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana,

lake System Pantanal of Mato Grosso, Brazil

Biomassa de Eichhornia crassipes, (Mart) Solms. no Sistema de Baías Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana,

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Biomassa de *Eichhornia crassipes*, (Mart) Solms. en el sitema de lagos Chacororé–Sinhá Mariana, Pantanal of Mato Grosso, Brasil

Received: 10/14/2020 | Reviewed: 10/22/2020 | Accept: 01/26/2021 | Published: 02/01/2021

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Abstract

The Pantanal constitutes the biggest floodplain of the world, forming a mosaic of different habitats, sustaining rich aquatic and terrestrial biota. This mosaic of habitats of the Pantanal is well represented in the Barão de Melgaço region by the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana Lake System, this system of parental lakes of Cuiabá river are recognized by their aquatic productivity and scenically beauty. The aquatic macrophyte are very abundant organisms being considered the most productive community in the aquatic system, with great capacity of accumulate biomass and nutrients. The samples were collected into three stations representing the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana lakes and the transition between them. This study had as purpose to evaluate the spatial and temporal dynamic of biomass in *E. crassipes* in the stands of this specie in Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana "baía" system. The results shown that both lakes shown bigger biomass during flood, and that in transition sample area were verified the bigger biomass of studied areas. This research supports another studies realized in the Pantanal about the importance of the "flood pulse" in the temporal variation of the biomass and shown that the variation of the biomass of *E. crassipes* in the lakes evidence the spatial heterogeneity which exists between those lakes. In this way the aquatic macrophyte can indicate the impacts resulting of the hydrological changes in this system of lakes.

Keywords: Temporal dynamic; Flood pulse; Aquatic macrophyte; Heterogeneity.

Resumo

O Pantanal constitui-se na maior planície alagável do mundo, englobando um mosaico de diferentes habitats, sustentando rica biota aquática e terrestre. Este mosaico de habitats do Pantanal é bem representado no município de Barão de Melgaço pelo sistema de baías Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana, este sistema de baías, lagoas parentais do rio Cuiabá são reconhecidas pela sua produtividade aquática e beleza cênica. As macrófitas aquáticas são organismos extremamente abundantes no Pantanal sendo considerada a comunidade mais produtiva dos sistemas alagáveis, com grande capacidade de acumulação de biomassa e nutrientes. As coletas foram realizadas em três pontos de coleta, Baía Chacororé, Baía Sinhá Mariana e a transição entre elas. Este estudo teve como objetivo avaliar a dinâmica espacial e temporal da biomassa de *E. crassipes* no Sistema de Baías Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana. Os resultados mostraram que as duas baías apresentam maior biomassa durante a cheia, e que no ponto de coleta da área de transição foi verificada a maior biomassa das áreas estudadas. Esta pesquisa corrobora outros estudos realizados no Pantanal sobre a importância do pulso de inundação na variação temporal da biomassa e mostra que a variação da biomassa de *E. crassipes* nas baías evidência a heterogeneidade espacial existente entre estas. Dessa forma as macrófitas aquáticas podem indicar os impactos resultantes das mudanças hidrológicas nesse sistema de baías.

Palavras-chave: Dinâmica temporal; Pulso de inundação; Macrófitas aquáticas; Heterogeneidade.

Resumen

El Pantanal es la llanura de inundación más grande del mundo, abarcando un mosaico de diferentes hábitats, sosteniendo rica biota acuática y terrestre. Este mosaico de hábitats del Pantanal está bien representado en Barão de Melgaço por el sistema de Baías Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana, este sistema de baías de las lagunas parentales del río Cuiabá son reconocidos por su productividad acuática y belleza escénica. Los macrófitos acuáticos son organismos extremadamente abundantes en el Pantanal y son considerados la comunidad más productiva de sistemas inundados, con gran capacidad de biomasa y acumulación de nutrientes. Las colecciones se llevaron a cabo en tres estaciones que representan la Baía de Chacororé, la Baía de Sinhá Mariana y el punto de transición entre ellas. Este estudio tenía como objetivo evaluar la dinámica espacial y temporal de la biomasa de *E. crassipes* en los *stands* de esta especie en el sistema de baías. Esta investigación corrobora con otros estudios realizados en el Pantanal sobre la importancia del pulso de inundación en la variación temporal de la biomasa y muestra que la variación de *E. crassipes* biomasa en las baías evidencia la heterogeneidad espacial existente entre ellas. Por lo tanto, los macrófitos acuáticos pueden indicar los impactos resultantes de los cambios hidrológicos en este sistema de baía.

Palabras clave: Dinámica temporal; Pulso de inundación; Macrofitos acuáticos; Heterogeneidad.

1. Introduction

E. crassipes has been cited like a specie with high values of biomass, 8.6 to 24t. ha⁻¹ (Poi de Neiff, 1994), comparison of the biomass of *E. crassipes* with another species of aquatic macrophytes in the medium Paraná being that this specie shown more than ten times bigger than another species. To Pott and Pott (2000) this specie reaches 200t.ha. year, Da Silva (1990) found 1480g.DW.m² in the Pantanal of Mato Grosso.

Limnological studies realized in the water bodies belonging to river-plain systems of flooding has shown a serial of changes arising from the seasonal variation of the water level, like changes in the water transparency, in the pH, electrical conductivity, in the suspended material, in the nutrient concentration and in the biotic community. (Hamilton & Lewis Jr, 1990; Da Silva, 1990; Da Silva & Esteves, 1995; Junk & Da Silva 1995; Hamilton *et al.*, 1996; Da Silva & Figueiredo, 1999; Schessi, 1999, Abdo & Da Silva, 2004, Nunes *et al.*, 2006, Nunes & Da Silva (2009).

Before from the seasonal changes caused by the water level variation, aquatic environment into the flooding plain shown spacial limnological variation, because of the macrophyte cover, wind, genesis, drainage standard, diversity of terrestrial environment surrounding the area, between another factor already seen by Nogueira (1989); Panoso (1993); Hamilton *et al.* (1996), Da Silva and Figueiredo (1999), Ramachandra *et al.* (2002), Nunes *et al.* (2017), Santos *et al.* (2017) between another.

This study had as objective to analyses the spacial and temporal variation of biomass of *E. crassipes* into three sample points in the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana *Baía* System.

2. Methodology

To the fields samples were selected three points in the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana "baía" system, being the first one (point 1) in the Chacororé "baía" located in the 21k 0615537 and 8196165 UTM to 158above sea level. The points 2 and 3 are localized in the Sinhá Mariana "baía" being the point 2 situated in the confluence of this one with the Mutum river, is denominated in this point by Sinhá Mariana/Mutum (21k 0615957 and 8195963 UTM and 153m above sea level). The 3 point shows the transition between the water of Sinhá Mariana and Chacororé (21k 0615826, 8192922 to 147m above sea level) although situated in the Sinhá Mariana "baía" receive water of Chacororé "baía" though the Do Mato "Corixo". The collects were realized during dry season of 2001 year (July and August) and during the raining season of the 2002 year (February and March), in sample points situated in the littoral region.

To evaluate the biomass, the samples were collected through the "Harvest" method, with squares with 0.25m² which were throw randomly in the stands of *E. crassipes* in which squares were collected all parts of the plants (blade, petiole, rhizome, root, stolon and detritus) till the hands reach (flood season) or till the soil (dry season). In the laboratory was cleaned with current water. Those were packaged into paper bags and carried to heater (Heraeus instruments) under 60°C degrees and dehydrated till constant weight, when their structures were weighted into analytical scale (Sartorius laboratory), with two houses of precision. After weighted, it was processed the calculation to obtain values of biomass.

The Physical-Chemical variables of water were measured in field, under macrophyte cover, are described in Nunes and Da Silva (2005), Nunes *et al.* (2020) and Abdo *et al* (2012).

The data of pluvial precipitation, sunstroke, relative air humidity and evapotranspiration to the period of September of 2000 to August of 2002, were obtained in the Agroclimatic Station Padre Ricardo Remetter from Mato Grosso Federal University located in the Santo Antonio do Leverger town (Lat. 15° 51'S; Long. 56° 04'W; to 140m.a.s.l.) and are described in Nunes and Da Silva (2005).

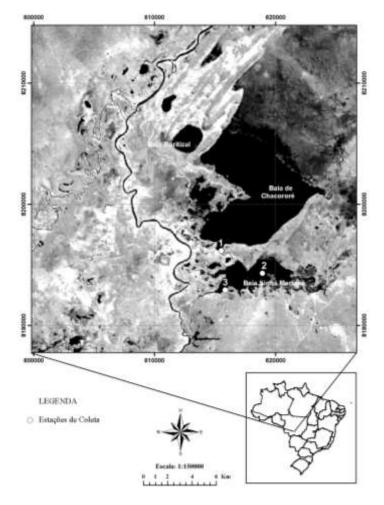
To statistical analysis of the data were used the program SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) ANOVA, Levene, Wilcoxon-Nemenyi-McDonald-Thompson texts. To calculate the biomass supplies total were used the values already calculated to biomass ($gDWm^2$) and multiplicated by the length and width of each stand of *E. crassipes*, these values were measured during sample collects.

2.1 Study área

The research was developed in the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana *Baía* System, in the *Santo Antônio de Leverger* and *Barão de Melgaço* municipality, situated between the coordinates 16° 14' to 16° 16' Sulth latitude and 55° 55' a 55° 58' of West longitude, in downstream of the *Barão de Melgaço* county (Figure 1). This system of "baías" (Chacororé-Sinhá Marina), connects to Cuiabá river, by means of a net of "corixos" Da Silva *et al* (2012) e Nunes *et al* (2012).

According to Pinto-Silva (1980) e Nunes *et al* (2012) the Chacororé lake show turbid water, is a lake with a semicircular shape, situated to 125.20m above sea level and with the following morphometric characteristics: maximum width, 10.18Km, maximum wide, 9.88Km, medium wide, 6.00Km, maximum depth, 4.00m, medium depth, 2.75m, volume, 178.6 x 10^6 m³, area, 64.92Km².

Figure 1. Study area localization in the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana lake system, Pantanal Mato-grossense, Barão de Melgaço, MT, Brazil.



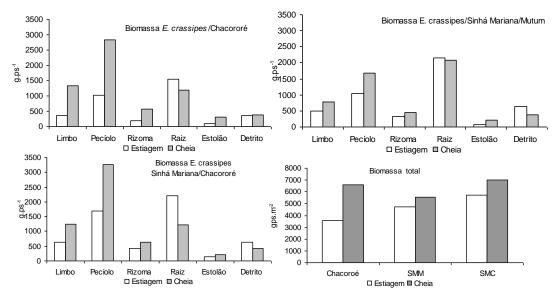


The Sinhá Mariana "baía" had black water, is formed by an enlargement of the Mutum river with one became linked during all year, and apart from which drain in the Cuiabá River. Was described by Pinto–Silva (1980), like a lake with elongate shape, with the following morphometries characteristics: maximum width, 8.75Km, maximum wide, 2.67Km, medium wide, 1.29Km, maximum depth, 4.75m, medium depth, 3.58m, volume, 40.40 x 10⁶ m³, area 11.25Km².

3. Results

The biggest biomass values of *E. crassipes* were obtained during flood season, following the hydrological cycle, being 7261.44gDW.m⁻² in Chacororé in February, 7034.08gDW.m⁻², for Sinhá Mariana/Mutum in March and 7534.56gDW.m⁻² for Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé in February (Figure 2) being that the last shown bigger biomass in all studied area.

Figure 2. Variation of biomass (g. DW.m²) of the aerial structures of *E. crassipes* and the water surface of the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana "Baía" system.





In the dry season the total biomass accumulated for all samples points was of 2710.21gDW.m⁻² in August in the Chacororé "baía", 2449.76gDW.m⁻² in August in Sinhá Mariana/Mutum and 5133.39gDW.m⁻² in August in the Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé "baía". Sinhá Mariana/Mutum show the small total biomass.

In Chacororé there was an increase of the biomass of blade and petiole in the high water period, the root shown the bigger biomass in the dry period probably because during this phase the plant is near of the sediment. The rhizome, stolon and detritus almost not showed variation in the biomass between hydrological periods. The structures of *E. crassipes* which most contributes to the increase of the biomass during high water period were: petiole with 2835.44gDW.m⁻² (38.15 %), the blade with 1334.99gDW.m⁻² (22.60%) and the root with 1199.97gDW.m⁻² that although not showed bigger biomass during flood, showed anyway high biomass values (21.94%) (Figure 3).

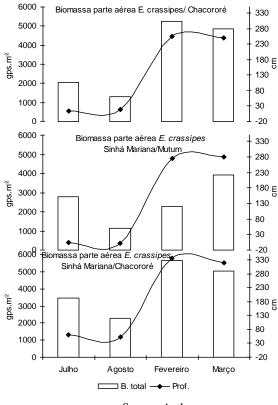
In Sinhá Mariana/Mutum, had also an increase of biomass during flood period for petiole (1670.71gDW.m⁻²), blade (786.27gDW.m⁻²). The root and detritus has obtained bigger biomass during dry period respectively, 2149.07gDW.m⁻² and 640.72gDW.m⁻² due the high rate of decomposition on this period and to the fact of *E. crassipes* be fixed on the sediment from where passed to obtain nutrients. Rizome and stolon not showed variation for the hydrological period. The structure which were responsible by the increase of the biomass were: root with 2075.12gDW.m⁻² (37.23%), petiole with 1670.61gDW.m⁻² (31.70%) and blade with 786.27gDW.m⁻² (13.75%) (Figure 6).

In Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé there was an increase of biomass during flood period for blade and petiole. The root had the inverse way being that the bigger biomass was obtained during dry period, rhizome, stolon and detritus not shown variation. The increase of the biomass during flood period were: petiole with 3254,21gDW.m⁻² (44.91%), blade with 1239.60gDW.m⁻² (18.08%) and root with 1223.52gDW.m⁻² (17.44%). On all samples points the petiole, blade and root shown increase in the biomass in the flood varying only on intensity (Figure 6).

The blade when analyzed statistically shown significant difference only to hydrological period (N=36, p<0.01, r^2 0.89). The petiole not showed significant statistical difference spatial, less temporal in the studied area. The rhizome showed statistical difference only when compared temporally (N= 36, p < 0.01, r^2 0.91). The root not showed significant statistical difference for time less for space. Stolon and detritus not showed significant statistical difference for time or space. The Levene test showed that there is significant difference for total biomass in relation to hydrological cycle (N=36, P<0.05, r^2 =0.35) not showing significant difference between sample points.

The total biomass accumulated during dry and flood period for Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé was of 5718.88gDWPS.m⁻² and 7003.76gDW.m⁻² respectively being this sample point that shown bigger also for dry and flood season. In Chacororé was measured 3574.55gDW.m⁻² and 6625.68gDW.m⁻² for dry and flood period, being the second bigger biomass of the flood and the small of the dry. This just occurs because Sinhá Mariana/Mutum showed biomass very high of root (2149.07gDW.m⁻²) and for this stay more elevated in dry period than Chacororé that show only (1547.17gDW.m⁻²) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Biomass variation (g.DW.m²) on the samples points: Chacororé, Sinhá Mariana Mutum and Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé and total biomass (d) of structures of *E. crassipes* in the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana lake system, during dry of 2001 and flood of 2002.



Source: Authors.

The medium accumulated biomass in the collects months calculated for the three samples points were in Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé of 57.19 t.DW.ha⁻¹ in the dry period and 70.14 t.DW.ha⁻¹ in the flood period this sample point showed the biggest values of biomass as much in the dry as much in the flood period, Chacororé showed the small results in the dry during flood overcome Sinhá Mariana/Mutum and stay like intermediate with values of 33.74 t.DW.ha⁻¹ during the dry and 66.26

t.DW.ha⁻¹ during flood, Sinhá Mariana/Mutum had 47.42 t.DW.ha⁻¹ during dry and 55.71t.DW.ha⁻¹ in flood, those values put Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé like bigger biomass by hectare.

If considered the stock of biomass Chacororé possess a very bigger biomass, because all the stands of *E. crassipes* had a very bigger area on this lake, (Table I) mainly during flood. The biomass stock in Chacororé was for dry of 107.24KgDW for the stand where it was realized the collects (Table I) during flood the stock was of 1987.70KgDW on a stand very bigger in this period. The sample point Sinhá Mariana/Mutum shown stock of biomass of 165.96kgDW during dry period and 194.63kgDW during flood period. On the sample point Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé the stock observed was of 457.51kgDW during dry and 840.45kgDW during flood period.

Table 1. Size of stands of *Eichhornia crassipes* in the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana lake system, during dry of 2001 and flood of 2002.

Sample points	Collected stand (m)	
	Dry	Flood
Chacororé	60x0.5	300x1
Sinhá Mariana/Mutum	70x0.5	70x0.5
Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé	100x0.8	150x0.8

Source: Authors.

During dry of 2001, almost was not observed individuals of *E. crassipes* on Chacororé, while many individuals of *E. azurea* were easily observed, during flood of 2002 just were observed large stands of *E crassipes* on the sample point and *E. azurea* was not observed, showing a substitution between these species during water level variation related to flood pulse. On Sinhá Mariana/Mutum *E. azurea* was the most common specie, although it was not difficult to found *E. crassipes* together with the mixed stands of those species, it was not variation between dry and flood period. On the sample point Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé the stands were mixed between *E. azurea* and *E. crassipes* during all sample collect period, although *E. crassipes* dominate on flood period.

4. Discussion

There was hydric deficiency during flood of the 2001 year not being this considered elevated for this region, because Soriano (1996) found values above of 300mm in the Pantanal of Nhecolândia. During the collects on dry the evapotranspiration was of 92.6mm on July/2001 and 123.8mm on August/2001, overcoming and much the precipitation for the same period, clearing the dryness observed on field. The evapotranspiration overcoming the precipitation on flood of 2001 the same not occurred on 2002 when the water level grows considerable on the sample points in the Chacoroé-Sinhá Mariana lake system growing the area for *E. crassipes* growing which developed considerable their biomass Nunes and Da Silva (2005).

Tarifa (1986) observed in The Pantanal humidity not less than 62% in dry till the 84% during flood those values are very near of the observed on this study, for the same period. The relative air humidity not follow diminish of the temperature which happens after April, this probable due evapotranspiration on those areas.

According Alfonsi and Camargo (1984) the northern region of Pantanal is more warm than south region, the most could month with temperature over 21°C and the warmest over 27°C, second Thornhwaite, classification The Pantanal is situated on a megatermic region, the values of evapotranspiration overcome 1.140mm.

On environments when the Flood Pulse is predictable and with long duration, the organisms adapted bringing benefits for their population. Many species reproduce during this period being their seeds overspread by water and fishes (Da Silva 1990; Da Silva & Esteves 1993, Nunes da Cunha & Junk 1996) those adaptations move in direction of efficient use of the resources on the ATTZ-aquatic/terrestrial transition zone, where alternate chronologically aquatic and terrestrial environment, establishing differences into the river-plain system including habitats permanent wetted, permanent lotic (main channel), permanent lentic and wetland (ATTZ).

Da Silva and Esteves (1993) observed that the main structures of plants which contributes for the increase the biomass were blade, petiole, root and detritus for *E. crassipes* blade, petiole and rhizome for *E. azurea* and for *Ludwigia natans*, blade, rhizome and detritus. In Chacororé of the six structures verified only petiole, root and blade collaborate significantly for increase of the biomass, on this way it was verified that this specie in The Pantanal has their development linked to the expansion of the mentioned areas.

Conserva (1998) observed monthly biomass of *Paspalum fascilulatum* in the Solimões River, Central lake of Marchantaria, Island of 1866.96 gDW.m⁻² and 1343.78 gDW.m⁻² and 2.174.75 gDW.m⁻² to 1722.80 gDW.m⁻² during September of 1995 to August of 1996 respectively. Those values are very small than the observed on this study for the monthly medium of *E. crassipes*.

Sinhá Mariana/Mutum behave like Chacororé and like observed by Da Silva and Esteves (1993) although not in the same sequence root, petiole and blade were responsible by the increase of the biomass.

On all sample points petiole, blade and root shown increase on the biomass during flood being that only the order of increase of each one vary the same was observed by Da Silva and Esteves (1993) for the same specie on two lakes of the.

The increase of the biomass on flood for this specie is related to the increase of the free area for the development of this plant which grow as much by clonal reproduction as much sexual reproduction, increasing the occupied area through horizontal grow, expanding also biomass by unit of area through the development of petioles and blades bigger that is to say vertical grow, follow Da Silva and Esteves (1993) the growing of the cited structures of *E. crassipes* show the vertical grow of the plant, than it is possible to take a base to say that the bigger rate of vertical growing on the studied area occurs on flood, the grow of rhizome and stolon although in small proportion also indicates the horizontal grow observed on field during flood.

Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé showed the biggest biomass due to be situated on a point of confluence of Chacororé and Sinhá Mariana lakes, from where the water during dry drains to Cuiabá River (during rising water and flood the flux direction of water is inverse) this fact permits that this point receive nutrient as much from Chacororé as much from Sinhá Mariana.

The increase of biomass during flood is related also with the keep of the specie in the system, which reduces their biomass during dry, this behavior was observed by Silva (2002), for the *E. crassipes* specie. Before that the concentration of nutrients on the studied environment was bigger during the flood like cleared by Nunes and Da Silva (2005).

On the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana lake system the biggest part of the aquatic macrophyte biomass are exported for the Cuiabá river by the "corixos" that connect this system of lakes to the river, this is easily verified during receding phase when big floating blocks (islands) of different size follow to river direction, carrying part of the biomass accumulated during flood, insects, fishes and birds, this fact also was observed by Da Silva and Esteves (1993), on the Porto de Fora lake in The Pantanal.

The increase of root biomass is due that on Sinhá Mariana the amount of ions dissolved in the water is small than in Chacororé the increase of the root area favor the caption of nutrient, the total biomass accumulated in dry on Sinhá Mariana/Mutum was 1185.43gDW.m⁻² and during flood was 1392.74gDW.m⁻² being on this way the small biomass accumulated during flood due the stands of *E. crassipes* being very small on this sample point.

Another fact which contribute for the high concentration of *E. crassipes* was the grow of ions present in the water during flood mainly in Chacororé and Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé also of geological origins, mainly on Chacororé, as much the decomposition of the terrestrial species now submerged, before still the organic matter carrying of the drainage area for the lake system, add to this fact the high temperature, oxygen concentration and humidity, because it were submerged what helps in a decisive way for decomposition and nutrient liberation (Penha *et al.*, 1998; Villar *et al.*, 2001; Asaeda *et al.*, 2001), carried from riverine wood surrounding the lake system must to contributing to the increase of ion concentration and energy into the system (Guo & Sims 1999).

Studying an oxbow lake Camargo & Esteves (1996), observed that the main factors which control the increase of biomass and nutrient concentration in *E. azurea* were the flood pulse and the increase of ion into the water.

According Da Silva and Esteves (1993) the growing of *E. crassipes* during flood can be related to the elevated temperature and small thermal amplitude observed in months which precede the flood, Singh and Sahai (1979) also impute the biomass increase of *E. crassipes* to the rainy days and to the India, Sabatini (1985), also observed the increase of biomass of *Paspalum repens* during the Flood period on the wetlands of Paraná River.

On chacororé it was calculated a increase of 50.93% of biomass during dry to flood, on Sinhá Mariana/Mutum the increase was of 14.88% for the same period, with on Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé the increase was of 18.46% Da Silva and Esteves (1993) also observed the biggest values of biomass during the flood on the Acurizal and Porto de Fora lakes, both near of the study area of this research for those lakes were obtained increase of 50% for *E. crassipes* and decrease of biomass of 59% for *E. azurea* and 86% for *Ludwigia natans* on the same study area.

Junk and Piedade (1997) and Piedade & Junk (2000) observed on the Amazonian "várzeas" biomass of *Echinochloa polystachya* a semi aquatic grass which occupies large areas during dry of about 100tha⁻¹, *Cyperus papyrus* reaches values of about 143 t. PS.ha⁻¹ by year, *E. crassipes* can reach these values, but their natural enemies and the climatological conditions inhibited their productivity.

Pozer and Nogueira (2004) verify a significant difference on biomass of native species of grasses in the Matogrossense Pantanal.

On this way it was verified that the flood pulse develops a very important influence on the increase of biomass of *E. crassipes* on the Chacororé-Sinhá Mariana lake system, allied still to the high temperature observed on field and the nutrient on water. Another important factor is that the system of lakes export nutrients for another regions of the Pantanal thorough the "corixos" which links the lake system to the rivers of the region.

Chacororé was the sample point which show biggest stock of biomass of the studied areas, Sinhá Mariana/Mutum show the small stock of biomass for the specie and Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé showed intermediary values.

5. Conclusion

It was possible to sad that Chacororé pass of less productive during dry to be by far the most productive during flood. This factor certainty is linked with the bigger concentration of dissolved nutrients into the water of this lake.

Occurs still the death and reduction of the area of these plants with the arrive of receding phase and consequently diminish of the water volume in the lake system, the export of biomass is a factor to be considered.

In synthesis it was verified in this research that the flood pulse carries a direct and indirect influence on the physical and chemical variables and that these go up with the increase of the water column or diminish arising of the same.

In general, the Chacororé Lake showed the biggest values of biomass, Sinhá Mariana/Chacororé (transition zone) showed intermediary values and Sinhá Mariana/Mutum the small values.

Acknowledgments

To The Pantanal Ecology Project (IB-UFMT/MPIL, Plön) supported by SHIFT (CNPq-IBAMA-DLR0 Program, Technical Scientific bilateral cooperation Brasil-Alemanha by the logistic support on this research. To CNPq for concession of master scholarship for first author. To FAPEMAT, by the logistic support for realize of this research and still to the Post Graduate Program in Ecology and Conservation of Biodiversity from Federal University of Mato Grosso.

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