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ulyses@cenpat.edu.ar

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Simões Libardi, Gustavo
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RESÚMENES DE TESIS

NON-GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION OF *Necromys lasiurus* (LUND, 1840) (CRICETIDAE, SIGMODONTINAE) IN BRAZIL

Tesis de maestría (137 pp.) en Ciencias, mención Ecología Aplicada, defendida el 20 de marzo de 2013 por GUSTAVO SIMÕES LIBARDI <gslibardi@gmail.com>. Lugar: Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz", Universidade de São Paulo, Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brasil. Director: Alexandre Reis Percequillo. Miembros del Tribunal: João Alves de Oliveira y Ulyses F. J. Pardiñas.

The present study assess the non-geographic variation of *Necromys lasiurus* (Lund, 1840) in Brazil, using skull morphometrics. A total of 20 craniometric measurements were taken from 1572 specimens deposited in many Brazilian zoological collections. Age classes were described based on the wear stage of the superior molars and used

as index to assess the variation due to age. Uni and multivariate analyses were used in order to describe the sexual and ontogenetic variation of *N. lasiurus*, first using the total sample and then using geographic samples that contained sufficient individuals for the application of the statistical tests. *N. lasiurus* presented sexual dimorphism related to intermediate age classes in total and in some local samples. The age assessment revealed important ontogenetic patterns of the skull development, like the rapid growth of the orofacial region compared to other parts. The local analyses revealed individual patterns of variation for each sample. Besides, the multivariate approach showed geographic patterns of variation, just like previous studies showed. The results of this study indicate that future geographic and taxonomic investigations should keep both sexes separated and the age classes could be homogenized in order to form adequate samples that allow the application of statistical tests.