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Species of ectomycorrhizal fungi in two ecosystems of the Plan Café locality

Especies de hongos ectomicorrízicos en dos ecosistemas de la localidad Plan Café

Espécies de fungos ectomicorrízicos em dois ecossistemas da localidade do Plan Café

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out with the objective of identifying the species of ectomycorrhizal fungi in two ecosystems of the Plan Café locality. Dichotomous keys were used to identify the ectomycorrhizal species found. The following morphological characteristics were observed: shape of the cap, type of foot, type of blades, color and odor of the mushroom. Three edible species (*Calvatia gigantea* (Batsch) Lloyd, *Agaricus campestris* (L.), *Agrocybe* Sp), one toxic (*Chlorophyllum molybdites* (G. Mey.) Masee) and two of little culinary value due to their size (*Lactocollybia* sp, *Tetrapyrgos nigripes* (Fr.) E. Horak). These results suggest going



deeper into the frequency and abundance of the identified species, as well as into bioecological aspects that serve as a basis for their use on the two farms under study.

Keywords: Sheets, hat, cap, habitat, substrate.

RESUMEN

El estudio se realizó con el objetivo de identificar las especies de hongos ectomicorrízicos en dos ecosistemas de la localidad Plan Café. Para la identificación de las especies de ectomicorrizas encontradas se emplearon claves dicotómicas. Se observaron las siguientes características morfológicas: forma del sombrero, tipo de pie, tipo de láminas, color y olor de la seta. Se identificaron tres especies comestibles (*Calvatia gigantea* (Batsch) Lloyd, *Agaricus campestris* (L.), *Agrocybe* Sp), una tóxica (*Chlorophyllum molybdites* (G. Mey.) Masee) y dos de poco valor culinario por su tamaño (*Lactocollybia* sp, *Tetrapyrgos nigripes* (Fr.) E. Horak). Estos resultados sugieren profundizar en la frecuencia y abundancia de las especies identificadas, así como en aspectos bioecológicos que sirvan de base para su aprovechamiento en las dos fincas en estudio.

Palabras clave: Láminas, sombrero, píleo, hábitat, sustrato.

SÍNTESE

O estudo foi realizado com o objetivo de identificar as espécies de fungos ectomicorrízicos em dois ecossistemas da localidade do Plan Café. Chaves dicotômicas foram usadas para identificar as espécies ectomicorrízicas encontradas. Foram observadas as seguintes características morfológicas: forma da tampa, tipo de pé, tipo de lamelas, cor e odor do cogumelo. Foram identificadas três espécies comestíveis (*Calvatia gigantea* (Batsch) Lloyd, *Agaricus campestris* (L.), *Agrocybe* Sp), uma tóxica (*Chlorophyllum molybdites* (G. Mey.) Masee) e duas de pouco valor culinário devido ao seu tamanho (*Lactocollybia* sp, *Tetrapyrgos nigripes* (Fr.) E. Horak). Estes resultados sugerem mais pesquisas sobre a frequência e abundância das espécies identificadas, assim como sobre aspectos bioecológicos que poderiam servir de base para seu uso nas duas fazendas em estudo.



Palavras-chave: Laminae, tampa, pileus, habitat, substrato.

INTRODUCTION

Fungi are microorganisms present in the soil, they participate in the decomposition of organic matter, the recycling of nutrients and the fungus-plant symbiosis. This relationship helps plants to obtain more quickly the water and nutrients that it needs, ensuring a good development of these (Delgado *et al.*, 2019). Fungal species include mycorrhizae, which form a symbiotic association between plant roots and the mycelium of soil fungi (Salcido *et al.*, 2020). These can be classified as endomycorrhizae and ectomycorrhizae; the latter are characterized by forming external mycelium and a Hartig network between the root cells without penetrating the cell wall (Salcido *et al.*, 2020). There are more than 5,000 species of ectomycorrhizae that are mostly from the Basidiomycetes class, and around 3,000 species of angiosperms and gymnosperms with which they perform symbiosis (Martínez *et al.*, 2016).

The absence of ectomycorrhizas affects the survival and development of plants, since they help the absorption of water and nutrients from the soil, increasing the tolerance of plants to acidity, heavy metal toxicity and high soil temperatures, as well as as it contributes to the resistance of diseases of the root system (Salcido *et al.*, 2020). Hence the importance of considering them as a quality parameter of ecosystems, since they are common in moderately acid soils and rich in organic matter, both in boreal, temperate and tropical regions (Galindo-Flores., 2015, Montoya, 2016). This distribution being of great importance for the human being, since fungi are cosmopolitan organisms distributed in many regions of the world with a greater appearance in summer and autumn (Ramos and Mezas, 2017). Although the production and dispersal of fungi will be influenced by some climatic factors such as humidity, temperature, wind speed and atmospheric pressure (Ramos and Mezas, 2017). These organisms are important for humans because they contain components that contribute to its nutritional value, such as proteins, vitamins and minerals (Beltrán-Delgado *et al.*, 2021). In addition, they present dietary fiber and an abundance of essential amino acids, as well as compounds of therapeutic interest, which include molecules such as polysaccharides (mainly -D-glucans), heteroglycans, chitin, peptidoglycans, proteoglycans,



lectins and ribonucleic acid, lactones, phenols, terpenoids and alkaloids, antibiotics and metal chelating agents (Beltrán-Delgado *et al.*, 2021).

Taking into account the above, the objective is to identify the species of ectomycorrhizal fungi in two ecosystems of the Plan Café locality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Description of the scenarios used in the investigation

The investigation took place in the town of Plan Café located at Km 4 of the Puerta de Golpe highway belonging to the municipality of Consolación del Sur in Pinar del Río. In the locality under study, two ecosystems located at 22°46'27 North latitude 83°56'51" West longitude were sampled. In them, the Ferralitic Yellowish Leached soil type predominates (Hernández *et al.*, 2015), with a pH of 3.86; 7.04; respectively.

Sampling description

In the two ecosystems, a 1,000 m² line was drawn. That allowed the sampling of five meters on each side of the former line to carry out the sampling in February, March and April, since at this stage the conditions are created for the appearance of the fruiting bodies, which were subsequently transferred to the microbiology laboratory for their macromorphological characterization.

Identification of ectomycorrhizal fungal species in silvopastoral systems

For the macromorphological study of the specimens, the methodology of Cifuentes *et al.* (1986) was mainly taken into account. The determination of the material was made through the use of dichotomous keys or guides García *et al.* (1998) and specialized sources such as (Dessing *et al.*, 2000).

A census of the plants existing in the two ecosystems was carried out, taking their morphological characteristics to determine the species present.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows that the two ecosystems evaluated present different species of plants, among which we can mention *Roystonea regia* Kunth, *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Acacia farnesiana* Mill, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Mangifera indica* L, *Ipomoea batatas*; (L.) Lam, *Zea mays* L, *Leucaena leucocephala* Lam, *Mimosa pudica* L, *Coffea arabica*, *Mangifera indica* L, *Citrus sinensis*, *Psidium guajava* L, *Samanea saman*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Vigna unguiculata* subspecies *sesquipedalis*, *Morus alba* L which are used in human and animal nutrition, gardening, living fences, construction, medicine and as wood (Table 1).

Table 1. - Description of the plant species in the ecosystems of the Plan Café locality

ecosystems	Family	Gender	Species	Applications
E-1	Arecaceae	Roystonea	<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Construction, medicinal and animal feeding
E-1	Fabaceae	Dichrostachys	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	Fences, construction, joinery and firewood for fuel
E-1	Fabaceae	Acacia	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	Gardening as ornamental, beekeeping, perfumery and to flavor ointments.
E-1	Anacardiaceae	anacardium	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Feeding
E-1	Anacardiaceae	Mangifera	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Wood, Food and Medicine
E-1	convulvulaceae	ipomoea	<i>Ipomoea sweet potatoes</i>	Feeding
E-1	Poaceae	Zea	<i>Zea mays</i>	Feeding
E-1	Fabaceae	leucaena	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	Animal feeding
E-2	Fabaceae	Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Medicine
E-2	Rubiaceae	coffee	<i>arabica coffee</i>	Food, rituals, Industry
E-2	Anacardiaceae	Mangifera	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Wood, Food and Medicine
E-2	Rutaceae	Citrus	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Food, perfumery and medicine
E-2	Myrtaceae	psidium	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Food and medicine
E-2	Fabaceae	samanea	<i>samanea saman</i>	Shade, animal feed and alcohol production
E-2	Anacardiaceae	anacardium	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Feeding
E-2	Fabaceae	Vigna	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	Feeding
E-2	moraceae	morus	<i>morus alba</i>	Feeding



Within these species, it can be established that the necessary requirements for the use of mangoes ensure food continuity through the contribution of vitamins and minerals present in the fruit (Salazar and Castro, 2022). In addition to the existence of other important species for consumption human and in construction, respectively, such as the *Vigna unguiculata* subspecies *sesquipedalis* which, in nutritional terms, are a great source of protein, as well as being rich in minerals (especially iron, zinc) and vitamins (Dago, *et al.*, 2021). *Samanea saman* and *Roystonea regia* Kunth which according to (Mora *et al.*, 2022) are used as wood due to the durability they have, determining it by the difference between the initial weight and the final weight (Table 2).

Table 2. - Abundance of plant species by ecosystems of the Plan Café locality

Species	ecosystem 1	ecosystem 2
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	0.09	-
<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	7.66	-
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	0.03	-
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	0.06	-
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	0.14	-
<i>Ipomoea sweet potatoes</i>	38.31	-
<i>Zea mays</i>	53.63	-
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	0.08	-
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	-	0.29
arabica coffee	-	28.54
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	-	0.29
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	-	0.38
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	-	2.85
<i>samanea saman</i>	-	0.1
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	-	0.57
<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	-	66.6
<i>morus alba</i>	-	0.38



Table 2 shows that the species with the highest abundance in the ecosystems were *Ipomoea batatas*; (L.) Lam, *Zea mays* L for one and *Vigna unguiculata* subspecies *sesquipedalis*, *Coffea arabica* for two, thus showing that these two ecosystems have the largest number of arable species for agricultural purposes. Coinciding with (MERAZ, 2019) which states that the corn plant makes an association with the mycorrhizae, thus improving the absorption of phosphorus and the total length of the root.

Identification of the fungal species found in the two ecosystems of the Plan Café locality

Fruiting body: 55 cm; attached to the soil by rhizomorphs.

Diagnostic gross feature

Large fruiting (can measure up to 65 cm), globe-shaped; sometimes laterally cleft, without a stem, with the base attached to the substratum by species of rootlets called rhizomorphs that tend to harden over time. The external surface (exoperidium) is usually smooth and white, breaking into irregular plates with maturation (a process called dehiscence), releasing the spores. The interior (gleba) is white and compact when young, becoming brown to yellowish-green and powdery when mature (Figure 1).

- Nutritional mode: saprophytic
- Substrate: on humus or on soil.
- Habitat: forests, wooded gardens.
- Fruiting season: summer, autumn.
- Consumption: When it is young and white, in adulthood it is not consumed.
- Kingdom: Fungi.
- Division: Basidiomycota
- Class: Agaricomycetes
- Order: Agaricales
- Family: Agaricaceae
- Gender: *calvatia*
- Species: *Calvatia gigantea* (Batsch) Lloyd.





Figure 1. - Images of the fruiting body of *Calvatia gigantea* (Batsch) Lloyd

This fungus presents a large fruit set that can measure up to 65 cm, globe-shaped and white in its youth, which presents a Saprophytic way of life for this species (Barroetaveña *et al.*, 2020). This species can be found solitary or in small groups on the ground (Verma *et al.*, 2018).

Fruiting body: 5 - 10 cm in diameter and 7 cm in length.

Diagnostic gross feature: cap globose when young, flattening with maturity; white to whitish in color with slight pinkish-brown tones, with a fibrillose-fringed edge (Barroetaveña *et al.*, 2020).

Free, tight lamellae, whitish at first, rapidly pinkish, becoming almost black-brown with maturation. The foot is cylindrical and white, solid and without scales, easily separable from the cap that shares the same color. It has a simple, ascending whitish ring, which gradually detaches from the cap as it ripens, coinciding with the darkening of the lamellae (Figure 2).

- Nutritional mode: saprophytic.
- Substrate: on humus or on soil
- Habitat: forests, gardens, woodlands, meadows
- Fruiting season: fall and spring
- Consumption: It is consumed at all stages of its life.
- Kingdom: Fungi
- Division: Basidiomycota



- Class: Agaricomycetes
- Order: Agaricales
- Family: Agaricaceae
- Genus: *Agaricus*
- Species: *Agaricus campestris* (L.)



Figure 2. - Images of the fruiting body of *Agaricus campestris* (L.)

Álvarez *et al* 2021 found species of the genus *Agaricus* associated with the families Achatocarpaceae, Boraginaceae, Fabaceae, Nyctaginaceae and Polygonaceae presented during the dry and rainy seasons in Mexico. In addition, this genus is an obligate symbiont, so the absence of mycorrhizae affects the survival and development of the plants to which they are associated (Salcido *et al.*, 2020).

Fruiting body: 100-180mm in diameter.

Diagnostic gross feature

The pileus -100-180mm- has little meat especially on the edge but it is firm. Initially, it can be spherical to oval, then hemispherical, and finally extended, tending to undulate or deform, somewhat depressed. Sometimes, it presents a slight obtuse ridge on the disc, not very evident. It may have scalloped margin, initially incurved, fibrous cuticle, non-separable, whitish, creamy color, with more or less pronounced pink tones. Depending on the degree of humidity, it darkens, taking on other or reddish tones, with handling or rubbing; with numerous large, flat plaques, brown or with darker reddish-brown tints in



the center, on a cream background, detersile, which detach easily on the periphery, leaving only more adherent remains in the central part.

Blades, dense, with short and long lamellae; very broad, up to 15 mm wide; tight in the young and separated when old; cream-colored when young, they take on greenish tones with the maturation of the spores, ending from intense green to bluish-green, on a grayish background; arista slightly serrated, with colora.

Stipe, 80-120 × 10-15 mm; slender, fistulous; cylindrical, generally curved, slightly attenuated at the apex, and broadening at the base, subbulbose or bulbous; with shallow striations; at first white, darkening with age, handling or dry weather, until it takes on milky brown or reddish tones, darker in the grooves, somewhat lighter towards the apex.

Ring broad, membranous, double, at first sheathed and excess, later mobile; floppy in the upper part, formed by flat plates in the lower area; whitish above, brown or reddish-brown below.

Flesh, scanty, firm; at first white, it acquires ochraceous tints when cut, more intensely in the upper area of the crown, less pronounced the closer to the edge, in the stipe the color change is more homogeneous, only at the base are more reddish tones visible; pleasant smell, reminiscent of pastries (cupcake, biscuit); rafanoid flavor, somewhat spicy and bitter, this sensation disappears after a few seconds, leaving a certain radish nuance (Figure 3).

- Nutritional mode: Saprophyte.
- Substrate: grass, turf; in nitrified soils.
- Habitat: parks and gardens, meadows, anthropized and ruderal areas (Becerra and Mateo 2018).
- Fruiting season: fall and summer.
- Consumption: toxic for human consumption.
- Fungi kingdom.
- Division: Basidiomycota.
- Class: Agaricomycetes.



- Order: Agaricales.
- Family: Agaricaceae.
- Genus: *Chlorophyllum*.
- Species: *Chlorophyllum molybdites* (G. Mey.) Masee.



Figure 3. - Images of the fruiting body of *Chlorophyllum molybdites* (G. Mey.) Masee

The species *Chlorophyllum molybdites* (G. Mey.) Masee presents a crown 100-180mm; little meat, especially on the edge, firm; initially spherical to oval, then hemispherical, and finally extended, tending to undulate or deform, somewhat depressed, sometimes with a slight obtuse ridge on the disc. In addition, this species has a ring and its mode of nutrition is Saprophytic (Becerra and Mateo 2018).

Next, we identify the genus *Agrocybe* which presents the following macromorphological characteristics.

Fruiting body: 10 and 40 mm in diameter.

Diagnostic gross feature

The cap is between 10 and 40 mm in diameter, broadly umbonate, initially bell-shaped, soon flat-convex and finally flat, with a slight central depression. Entire, regular margin, striated for transparency in wet weather, slightly involute in young specimens but extended when mature, when it may appear slightly lacerated. Cuticle smooth, somewhat rough, shiny, hygrophanous, slightly lubricated in humid weather, ochraceous brown in color at first, but with the passage of time or in dry weather, it becomes lighter to a light yellowish brown, almost white on the edge. Hymenium formed by sheets, lamellae and straight lamellules,



from adnate to semi-free, initially yellowish-brown in color, gradually acquiring lilac tones, finally ending in dark brownish-grey. Spores in mass of ferruginous brown color.

Stem with a circular section, between 25-50 × 1.5-2.5 mm, thin, centered, fibrous, colored at the cap, almost whitish at the apex and darker at the base, covered with a fine whitish bloom. At the base it presents long whitish mycelial cords attached to 1 or up to 3 brownish-blackish sclerotia on the outside, whitish on the inside, which can reach up to 15 mm in diameter. Cream-colored meat, with insignificant odor and slightly astringent taste (Figure 4).

- Nutritional mode: Saprophyte.
- Substrate: Poplars, elms and other deciduous trees.
- Habitat: Parks and gardens, meadows, forests.
- Fruiting season: spring and autumn.
- Consumption: Some species are edible for humans.
- Fungi kingdom.
- Division: Basidiomycota.
- Class: Agaricomycetes.
- Order: Agaricales.
- Family: Strophariaceae.
- Genre: *Agrocybe*.
- Species: *Agrocybe* Sp.



Figure 4. - Images of the fruiting body of *Agrocybe* Sp.



The genus *Agrocybe* presents a fruiting body that ranges from 10 to 40 mm in diameter and with a saprophytic mode of nutrition (Aza *et al.*, 2021). This genus sprouts profusely in large groups on stumps and trunks of poplars and other riverside trees which usually come out for a good part of the year but its early nature in the bud is known, fruiting already in August and without rain (Jiménez, 2022).

Fruiting body: 1 to 4 cm in diameter.

Diagnostic gross feature: the cap is 14 cm in diameter, convex-umbilicated throughout development, and funneled in old age. Tenacious, non-separable, hygrophanous cuticle, white in color, which yellows in old specimens (Hosen *et al.*, 2016).

Lamellae and white lamellae tend to yellow over time, adherent or somewhat decurrent, tight and wide, compared to the thickness of the meat.

Flesh 1 mm thick in the center of the cap, white, hard, with a somewhat astringent flavor and a fungal odor, slightly spermatic, similar to that of some polyporaceas.

Stem 2-5 x 0.4-0.8 cm, central or somewhat eccentric, hollowed, flattened and furrowed, the same color as the cap (Figure 5).

- Nutritional Mode: Saprophyte.
- Substrate: Grassy, on wood and soil.
- Habitat: Parks and gardens, meadows, forests.
- Fruiting Season: Spring.
- Consumption: Little culinary value for its size.
- Fungi kingdom.
- Division: Basidiomycota.
- Class: Agaricomycetes.
- Order: Agaricales.
- Family: Marasmiaceae.
- Genus: *Lactocollybia*.



- *Species: Lactocollybia sp.*



Figure 5. - Images of the fruiting body of Lactocollybia Sp.

The species of ectomycorrhizae belonging to the agarical order are related to angiosperm plants distributed in the tropical deciduous forest, which coincides with this specimen, which was found in association with *Psidium guajava* trees in tropical areas (Álvarez *et al.*, 2021).

Fruiting body: 1 to 2 cm. diameter.

Diagnostic gross feature: This fungus has a crown: 1 to 2 cm. in diameter, convex to flat-convex. It presents a central to subinfundibuliform depression, with the margin slightly raised, furrowed-striated, surface glabrous, plicate-striated, greenish gray to white in color, sometimes dark colors in the center, reacts by turning dark blue when it is mistreated, it is not hygrophanous (López *et al* 2005).

Stipe: 1-4 cm long, 0.1 cm wide, fibrillar, cylindrical, without ring, also white towards the crown and black towards the base.

Lamellae: white to grey, smooth and subdistant. Spore present, white to cream.

Observations: this species is easily distinguishable by the greenish color of the crown and the dark color at the base of the stipe (Figure 6).

- Nutritional mode: saprophytic.
- Substrate: Soil, grass and decaying branches.



- Habitat: meadows, gardens and pastures.
- Fruiting season: spring and autumn.
- Consumption: Little culinary value for its size.
- Fungi kingdom.
- Division: Basidiomycota.
- Class: Agaricomycetes.
- Order: Agaricales.
- Family: Tricholomataceae.
- Genus: *Tetrapyrgos*.
- *Species: Tetrapyrgos nigripes* (Fr.) E. Horak.



Figure 6. - Images of the fruiting body of *Tetrapyrgos nigripes* (Fr.) E. Horak

Jagadish *et al.*, (2019) found several species of ectomycorrhizal fungi associated with *Anacardium occidentale*, among which we can mention the species *Tetrapyrgos nigripes*, *Agaricus* sp. These species carry out a mycorrhizal symbiosis with the plant, helping it with nutrition by providing phosphorus and nitrogen. The ectomycorrhizae can be used as quality indicators for forest plants in nursery conditions since they help in their nutrition (Montoya, 2016).

In Figure 7, it is shown that the species with the highest abundance in ecosystem one was *Agaricus campestri*, which was found near the depositions of grazing animals after a period of rainfall. Unlike ecosystem number two, *Tetrapyrgos nigripes*, which was associated with



plant remains near the soil cultivated with *Vigna unguiculata* subspecies *sesquipedalis* after a period of rainfall (Figure 7).

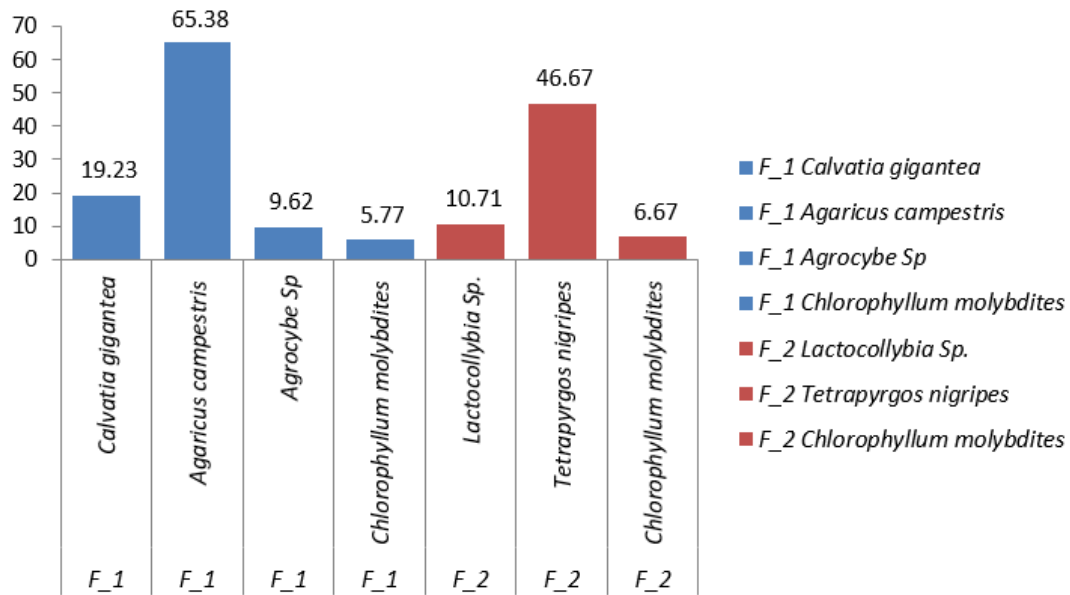


Figure 7. - Abundance of ectomycorrhizal species by ecosystems of the Plan Café locality

The species *Agaricus campestris* develops in soils with high relative humidity and can be found in forests, gardens, trees, meadows (Barroetaveña *et al.*, 2020). This species is of great importance to humans because it can be consumed at all stages of its life (Barroetaveña *et al.*, 2020).

Coinciding with what was stated with Jagadish *et al.*, 2019, which found the species *Tetrapyrgos nigripes* associated with plants of *Anacardium occidentale* in conditions of high relative humidity.

CONCLUSIONS

The species (*Calvatia gigantea* (Batsch) Lloyd, *Agaricus campestris* (L.), *Agrocybe sp* and (*Chlorophyllum molybdites* (G. Mey.) Masee) are found in humid places with the presence of cattle, but this is not the case for *Lactocollybia Sp*, *Tetrapyrgos nigripes* (Fr.) E. Horak).



In the two ecosystems evaluated, the species with the highest abundance were *Agaricus campestri* and *Tetrapyrgos nigripes*.

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The authors declare not to have any interest conflicts.

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The authors have participated in the writing of the work and analysis of the documents.



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