

= Teso Dos Bichos =

" Teso Dos Bichos " is the eighteenth episode of the third season of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on March 8 , 1996 . It was written by John Shiban , and directed by Kim Manners . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . " Teso Dos Bichos " earned a Nielsen household rating of 10 @.@ 7 , being watched by 17 @.@ 38 million people in its initial broadcast . The episode received mostly negative reviews .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In this episode , Mulder and Scully investigate a series of deaths that occur immediately after an ancient artifact is brought to Boston from an excavation site in South America . According to Scully , the deaths appear to be the result of political terrorism , but Mulder suspects something more improbable .

The production for " Teso Dos Bichos " , which was strongly disliked by the cast and crew of The X @-@ Files , was plagued by several issues . Director Kim Manners , who had particular disdain for the episode , later made T @-@ shirts and gave them to the cast and crew that read " Teso Dos Bichos Survivor . " The episode 's title translates from archaic Portuguese into English as " Burial Mound of Small Animals , " although other translations have been proposed .

= = Plot = =

At an archaeological dig in the Ecuadorian highlands , two archaeologists , Dr. Bilac and Dr. Roosevelt , get into an argument over the removal of a burial urn that contains an Amaru , or a female shaman . Roosevelt argues that the urn must be taken from the site and preserved in a museum , much to the chagrin of Bilac and the tribespeople present . Later , a native shaman distributes Yaje to the local villagers and Bilac . During this ritual , a jaguar spirit kills Roosevelt in his tent .

Later , in Boston , Fox Mulder and Dana Scully investigate the disappearance of Dr. Decker , an archaeologist from a local history museum , after a security guard discovers a large amount of blood in Decker 's lab . They interview both the curator , Dr. Lewton , and graduate student Mona Wustner . They also visit a reclusive Bilac . After closing , Lewton is killed by the jaguar spirit after his car doesn 't start . During an investigation of the crime scene , Scully comes across rat corpses in the engine compartment of Lewton 's vehicle . Mona denies that anything unusual has happened in the museum .

Mulder and a group of police search for Lewton 's remains . Scully sees blood dripping on Mulder 's face from above and , upon looking up , they see a portion of Lewton 's intestine hanging from a tree . Scully , about to perform an autopsy on the intestine , is interrupted when Mona suddenly calls and reports that Bilac was under the influence of Yaje . At the museum , Mona hears noises from a restroom and , upon opening a toilet lid , she sees rats forcing their way out of the sewer . When the two agents arrive , they discover Bilac crying beside one of the toilets , saying that Mona is dead .

Later , Bilac escapes from the room in which he is being held without exiting through the only door . Mulder notices a large drag mark through the dust on the floor , discovering a hatch leading to the museum 's old steam tunnels . While exploring the tunnels , the agents find the remains of the victims and are attacked by a multitude of feral cats . As they try to escape , they come across Bilac 's mutilated body . The two agents make their way out and close the hatch on the pursuing cats . The episode closes with Mulder suspecting that the animal attacks were associated with the burial urn that had been removed against the wishes of the Ecuadorian tribespeople ; it is shortly returned to the burial grounds , where the local shaman watches the urn 's reburial with jaguar @-@ like eyes .

= = Production = =

" Teso Dos Bichos " was taken by John Shiban , the episode 's writer , from an ancient chant . The

words translate into archaic Portuguese as " Burial Mound of Small Animals , " although other translations have been proposed . In Colombia and Venezuela , the word " bichos " is a euphemism for testicles , something Shibban was unaware of when writing the script . Shibban later joked that this " controversy " would be good for ratings .

The production of the episode was plagued with issues . At the last minute the ending of the episode had to be rewritten ; originally , the script called for " hordes " of common house cats to attack Mulder and Scully . Unfortunately , the cats refused to attack under direction and did " pretty much nothing " . To further complicate matters , Gillian Anderson revealed to the producers that she was severely allergic to cats . Thus , the whole sequence was nixed . Director Kim Manners called the first three acts of the episode " the best three acts of televisions I ever directed " , whereas he referred to the fourth act as " an absolute disaster . " Manners later revealed that he asked series creator Chris Carter for permission to focus on a leopard during the fourth act instead of the cats , saying " I begged Carter ' Please let 's revisit the leopard in the teaser because I 'm never going to make these cats scary . ' "

" Teso Dos Bichos " was strongly disliked by the cast and crew of The X @-@ Files , including both David Duchovny and Kim Manners . Manners , most notably , was not pleased with the plot and felt " pussycats are not scary . " He later made T @-@ shirts and gave them to the cast and crew that read " Teso Dos Bichos Survivor . " The episode earned two distinctive nicknames courtesy of Manners . The first , " Second Salmon , " referred to the number of re @-@ writes the episode went through . Every time an episode was re @-@ written , the color of the script changed accordingly . " Teso Dos Bichos " went through so many re @-@ writes that the cast ended up with two salmon colored copies . The second nickname , again , courtesy of Manners , was " Teso Dos Bitches . "

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Teso Dos Bichos " premiered on the Fox network on March 8 , 1996 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 10 @.@ 7 , with an 18 share , meaning that roughly 10 @.@ 7 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 18 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 17 @.@ 38 million viewers .

The episode received negative reviews from critics . A writer from Entertainment Weekly gave " Teso Dos Bichos " a C , and sardonically wrote , " No es bueno ! " Reviewer Zack Handlen of The A.V. Club gave the episode a C ? and criticized the laziness of the writing , saying , " Maybe I 'm missing something here . There could be some subtext in , um , yeah , I got nothing . The dead rats in the toilet were freaky , right ? And they did kill that dog off , so that 's hardcore . Really , though , I 'm just too disappointed to say much else . This is paint @-@ by @-@ numbers at its most tedious , and while it 's nice to have evident proof of how far the show has come since it started , that doesn 't make it any easier to sit through . " Critical Myth 's John Keegan gave the episode a scathing review , only awarding it 1 / 10 . He criticized the seriousness of the plot and wrote , " Overall , this has to be one of the worst episodes of the series . In nearly every possible way , the episode fails to live up to the usual expectations . Perhaps aware of how silly the whole thing sounds , the cast and crew seem weary of it all from beginning to end . Even some of the bad ideas in the later seasons don 't fall to this level of inadequacy . " Cyriaque Lamar from i09 called the Jaguar Spirit one of " The 10 Most Ridiculous X @-@ Files Monsters " and wrote , " In this fairly ridiculous Season 3 episode , an Ecuadorian artifact possessed by a Jaguar Spirit (or something) causes tabbies to go bonkers and murder people . This scene of Scully fighting a cat deserves the GIF treatment . Make it happen , folks ! " Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated the episode one stars out of five , calling the premise " achingly unambitious " . The two roundly criticized the plot , calling it a " retread of a cursed mummy movie without a mummy " , as well as the performances of Trevino , Duchovny , and Anderson . Despite the overall negativity , Shearman and Pearson noted that the " much derided " cat sequence was not " that badly handled . "