

# Lowland Tapir latrines as an alternative food source for vertebrates in the Atlantic Forest

Laís Lautenschlager, Yuri Souza, Nacho Villar, Mauro Galetti, and Kenneth Feeley



## Background

Latrines are fecal accumulations resulting from the **repeated use** of the same **defecation sites**, usually shared by more than one individual



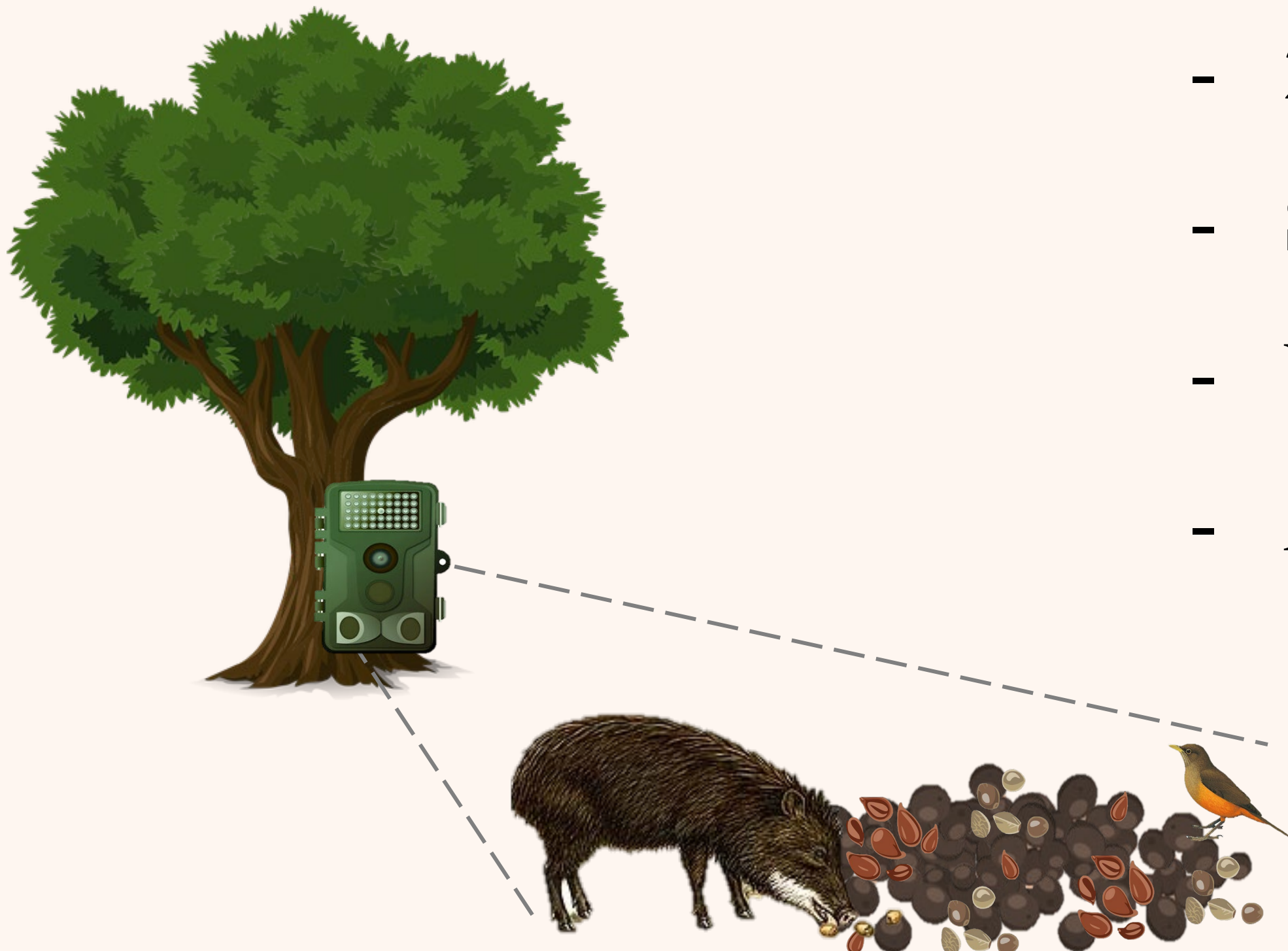
These dung piles could be considered as an “**open-market**” for the animal community in the forest



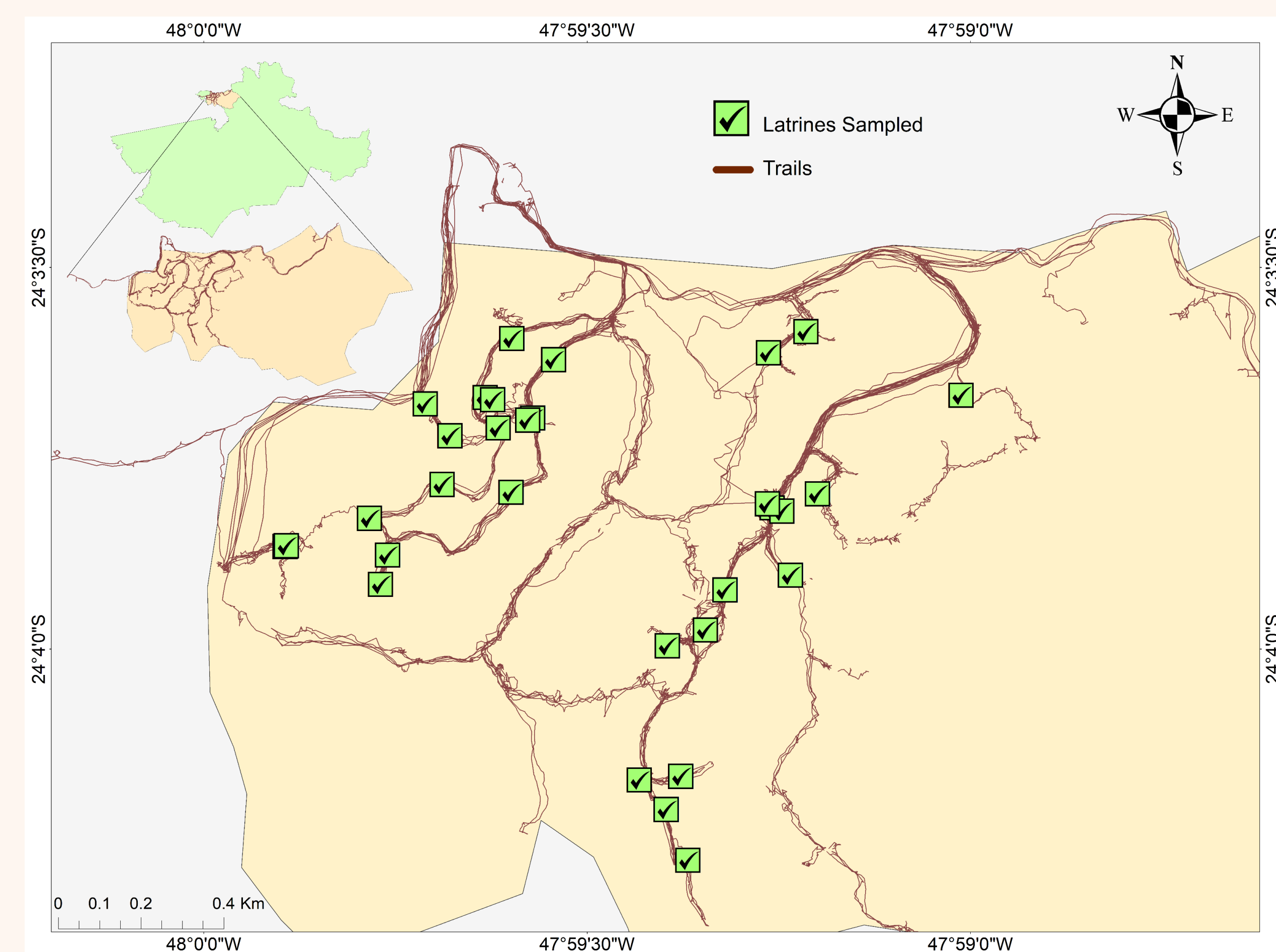
## Questions

- Which species are foraging in the *Tapirus terrestris* latrines?
- How long are they foraging in these latrines?

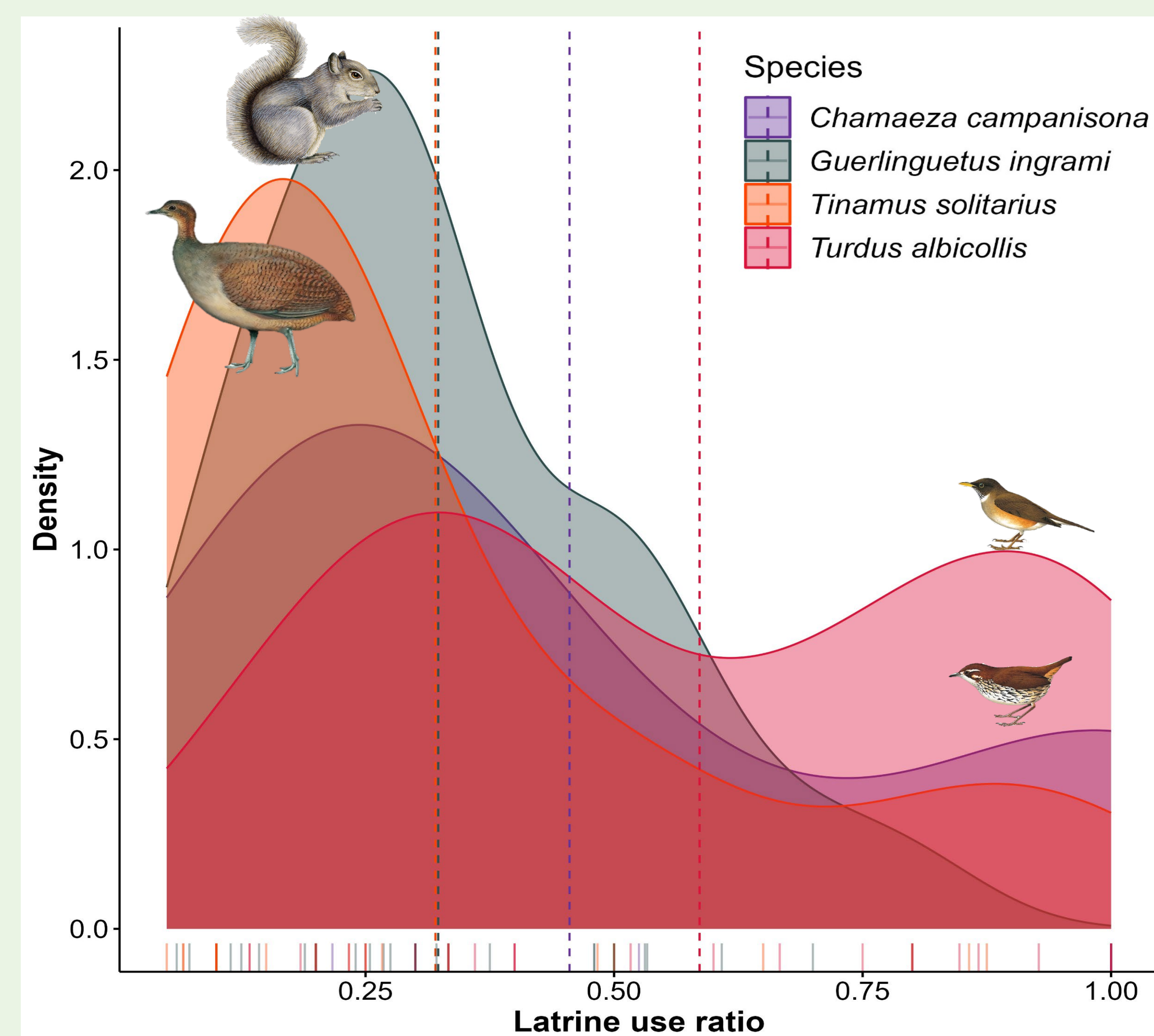
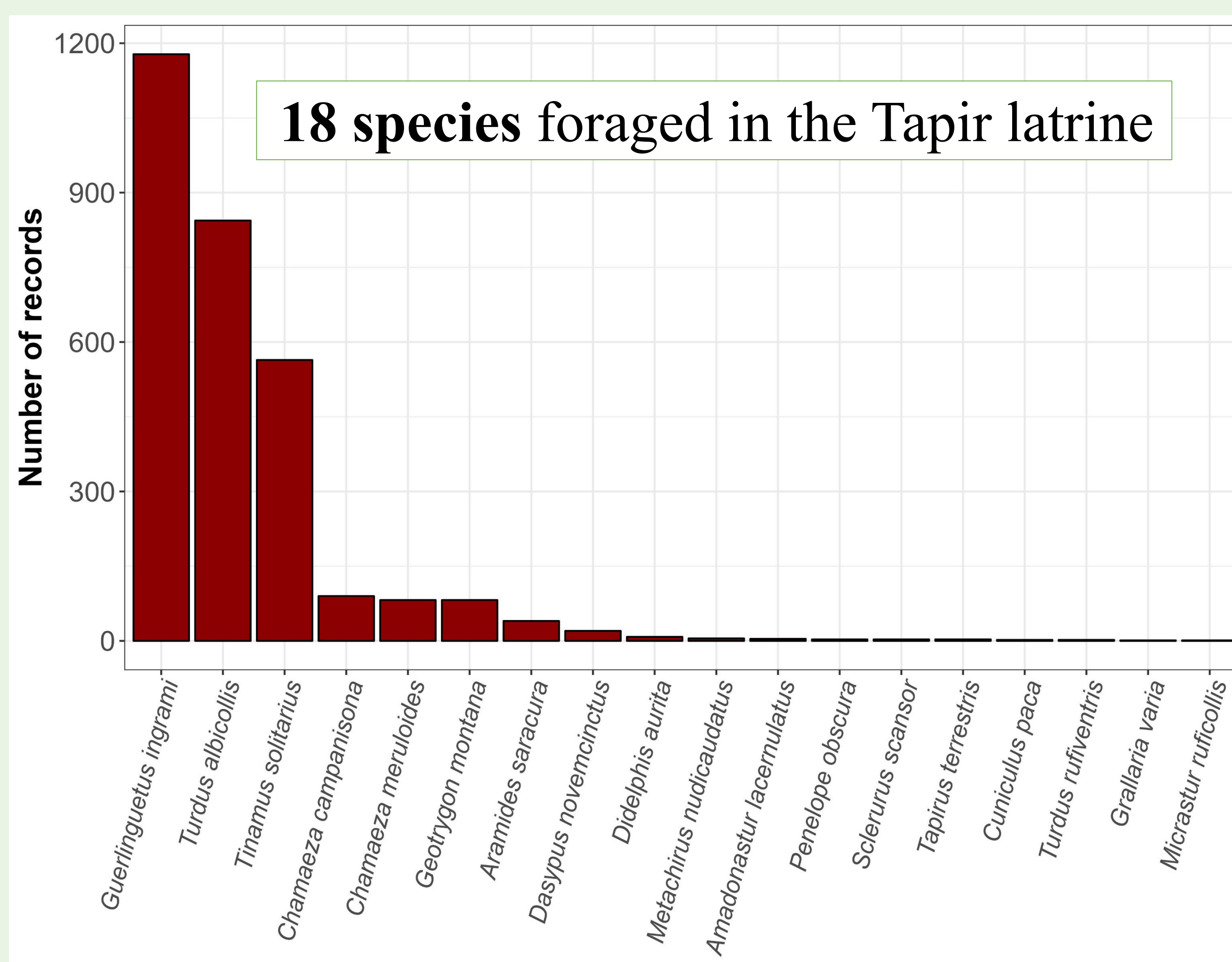
## Methods



- Carlos Botelho State Park, Brazil
  - 27 camera traps/ ‘Active’ Tapir latrines
  - Six months (January to June 2022)
  - Video mode (10 sec + 0.03 sec interval)
  - Analysis: GLMM
- species as latrines-dwellings  
time spent (ratio)



## Results



Latrine use ratio		
Estimate (SE)	P	
-0.58 (0.23)	0.01	
-1.09 (0.27)	<0.01	
-0.77 (0.22)	<0.01	
-0.75 (0.26)	<0.01	

## Discussion & Conclusion

- Most of species interacting with the latrine are **omnivores** = **opportunistic diet**
- Squirrel and Solitary Tinamou spent lower time in the latrine = high removal of **large seeds** & **exposure** to predators
- Latrines might be an important additional food source to the vertebrate community in a tropical forest**