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Data Article

Data on spatio-temporal patterns of wild fruit harvest from the economically important palm *Mauritia flexuosa* in the Peruvian Amazon



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ABSTRACT

These data are the foundation of the analyses and results published in the article “Spatio-temporal patterns of *Mauritia flexuosa* fruit extraction in the Peruvian Amazon: Implications for conservation and sustainability” (Horn et al., 2018) [1]. Here we include data on the volume of *M. flexuosa* fruit arriving in the city of Iquitos, Peru from the surrounding region. This includes the amount of fruit (in sacks and kg), the date of entry into Iquitos, the point of embarkation (watershed and coordinates), the method of transportation and the point of entry into Iquitos. Data is provided in a number of formats, including data tables, Google Earth KML files and summary tables by watershed and/or month.

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Specifications Table

Subject area	Geography, natural resources, social sciences, conservation, forestry
More specific subject area	Applied ecology and conservation
Type of data	Table (csv), Text file, KMZ (Google Earth)
How data was acquired	Surveys, GPS, GIS
Data format	Raw and aggregated by month for locations and watersheds
Experimental factors	None
Experimental features	None
Data source location	Loreto, Peru
Data accessibility	Data is with this article

Value of the data

The data presented provides baseline numbers of *M. flexuosa* (aguaje) fruit entering the market of Iquitos, Loreto, Peru, over one year (2012–2013) which can be compared to future studies to document change in extraction levels.

- Further analyses of the data can be used by policy, conservation and resource management entities to prioritize geographic areas or communities for outreach efforts focused on sustainable harvest of aguaje and guide the timing of those efforts.
- Data can be incorporated into other geographical studies focused on the regional transportation system or other natural resources for further analysis.
- Data for individual communities can provide insights into market interaction and resource extraction decisions of those communities.

1. Data

In the Amazon Basin, some non-timber forest products (NTFP), such as the ecologically and economically important palm *Mauritia flexuosa*, are extracted intensively and across large areas. The ecological effect of harvest is unclear [1]. Fruit is harvested from wild populations of *M. flexuosa* and is eaten directly or processed into juice, ice cream, and other food products. Because adult palms can grow above 30 m in height, harvest is primarily destructive and fruiting females are cut down in order to harvest the fruit. The demand for fruit is driven by the city of Iquitos, the commercial center of Loreto, and the largest consumer of *M. flexuosa* fruit in the Amazon [2]. Despite decades of concern about overharvesting, and the ecological implications of harvest, the scale and scope of *M. flexuosa* extraction remains unclear [3]. To better understand the magnitude of *M. flexuosa* harvest in the region, we quantified the amount of *M. flexuosa* fruit entering the Iquitos market, traced its source and documented spatial and temporal patterns of extraction across the region. Specifically, this data article includes the following:

1. Downloadable CSV file ([Appendix A](#)) that includes all records of *M. flexuosa* entering the Iquitos market during the study period, including date, number of sacks, weight, origin (watershed, UTM coordinates, name of embarkation village or location), mode of transportation, how the data was collected, and any notes associated with the record.
2. Tables that summarize *M. flexuosa* extraction by watershed and month.
3. Google Earth file (KML), that visually displays the data ([Appendix B](#)).

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