

### **Project Updates: May 2023**

In February 2023, we concluded all fieldwork campaigns, which consisted in selecting our sampling sites and subsequently conducting surveys of bees and social wasps in Atlantic Forest fragments and cocoa agroforestry, in southern Bahia, Brazil.

In September 2022, we carried out a pilot campaign to adjust our methodology and sampling design.

In November 2022, we carried out our first campaign, in the municipality of Una. However, we observed a low density of insects captured in the Malaise traps. We decided to suspend sampling to identify the reason for the low success in capturing bees and social wasps. After discussing with several experts in entomology and conducting some tests, we concluded that the material used to make the traps could not be suitable for collecting insects. Therefore, we decided to use, at each sampling site, three Malaise traps, made with different tissues. We also decided to include a complementary method for collecting social wasps; a baited bottle (500 ml) with guava juice, orange juice and sardine.

After this adjustment to the methodology, we noted a considerable increase in the number of bees and social wasps collected and therefore conducted sampling surveys in all 60 sampling sites (i.e., 30 pairwise of forests-agroforests) from December 2022 to February 2023.

At this moment, we are processing the collected material. We are performing the insect triage (i.e., the separation of the insects of interest), pinning and conducting the taxonomic identification of bees and wasps. See pictures below:



Fig. 1 - Removal of insects from the Malaise trap collection pot in an Atlantic Forest fragment.



Fig. 2 – Social wasp nest (*Angiopolybia pallens*) found in a cocoa agroforestry.