

Breu Resin Harvest in the Eastern Amazon and Its Link to a Bark Boring Beetle

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Some Brazilian Amazon forest dwellers collect and sell resins from various species of the genus *Protium* (locally called *breu*). A study with Temb  Indians revealed trees yield an average of 0.7 kg. and up to 11 kg. during initial collection. Weevil larvae stimulate resin flow by chewing into inner bark and then develop inside resin lumps that slowly accumulate on the bark exterior. Lump size is more correlated to the number and size of holes made by larvae than larvae size. Sustainable *breu* harvest should, therefore, consider weevil infestation and growth patterns as well as *breu* tree physiology and ecology.