

# Indigenous knowledge interaction network between host plants and edible insects in the Ecuadorian Amazon

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- Title:** Indigenous knowledge interaction network between host plants and edible insects in the Ecuadorian Amazon
- Journal:** Journal of Insects as Food and Feed, September 2022, DOI: 10.3920/JIFF2022.0061
- Authors:** Michelle Guachamin (Universidad Regional Amazónica IKIAM) and M.C. Peñuela (Universidad Regional Amazónica IKIAM).
- Actions:** Buttons for "Request full-text", "Download citation", and "Copy link".
- References:** A section with 57 references.
- Abstract:** Globally, nearly two billion people consume approximately 2,111 species of insects, 92% of which are harvested directly from their natural ecosystems. However, intensifying insect harvesting causes ecological alterations and biodiversity loss. In the Ecuadorian Amazon, the Kichwa people are the primary consumers of insects. Thus, this study characterised the diversity of edible insects, host plants, and cultural significance among two peri-urban Kichwa communities. We used photo-elicitation, free-listing, semi-structured interviews, and in situ walk-in-the-woods to identify relevant edible insects. Then, we used species accumulation curves, the Sørensen–Smith Index (SSI), ecological interaction networks, and extinction models to assess insect–host species interactions and cultural significance. We registered 19 edible insect species from three orders and six families. Furthermore, we reported two new species for the world list of edible insects and one for the Ecuadorian list. Ten insect species were associated with 21 host plant species. The interaction between the *Rhyzophorus palmarum* larvae and the *Banana* rachis was the most frequent. (SCHIAPPA, 2022)
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