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Wildlife is imperiled in peri-urban landscapes: threats to arboreal mammals

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Corresponding Author:	Oscar M. M Chaves, Ph.D. Universidad de Costa Rica San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San José COSTA RICA
First Author:	Oscar M. M Chaves, Ph.D.
Order of Authors:	Oscar M. M Chaves, Ph.D. Júlio Souza Júnior, Dr Gerson Buss, Dr Zelinda MB Hirano, Dr Marcia Jardim, Dr Erica Amaral, M.Sc. João Godoy Amanda Peruchi, M.Sc. Thais Michel Júlio César Bicca-Marques, Ph.D.
Abstract:	<p>Urbanization and deforestation impose severe challenges to wildlife, particularly for forest-living vertebrates. Understanding how the peri-urban matrix impacts their survival is critical for designing strategies to promote their conservation. We investigated the threats faced by brown howler monkeys (<i>Alouatta guariba clamitans</i>) in peri-urban regions of Rio Grande do Sul (RS) and Santa Catarina (SC) states, southern Brazil, by compiling negative interaction events (hereafter NIE) reported over more than two decades. We assessed the major NIEs, their distribution among age-sex classes, and the predictors of NIE-related mortality. After 20+ years of monitoring, we compiled 540 NIEs (RS = 248 and SC = 292). Electrocution by power lines was the most frequent cause of death or injury (37%), followed by dog attack (34%), vehicle collision (17%), and human mistreatment (12%). The occurrence of lethal injuries ranged from 5% to 69% depending on the type of NIE and on which state it occurred in. The overall post-NIE mortality was 56%. Adults of both sexes were the most affected individuals in both study regions. The minimal adequate GLM model explained 83% of the variation in NIE-related mortality. State, NIE type, and age-sex class were the main predictors of mortality. Overall, mortality was lower in SC and higher among adult females than in the other classes. We found that the survival of brown howler monkeys in the forest-urban interface is constrained by both the urban infrastructure and the growing interactions with humans and domestic and stray dogs (<i>Canis familiaris</i>). We propose the placement of aerial bridges, road signs and speed bumps in areas of frequent animal crossing, the sterilization of stray dogs, and the sensitization of local inhabitants on the importance of respecting and protecting wildlife to reduce their NIEs with humans and domestic animals in the forest-urban interface.</p>
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1 **Wildlife is imperiled in peri-urban landscapes: threats to arboreal mammals**

2

3 ABSTRACT

4

5 Urbanization and deforestation impose severe challenges to wildlife, particularly for
6 forest-living vertebrates. Understanding how the peri-urban matrix impacts their
7 survival is critical for designing strategies to promote their conservation. We
8 investigated the threats faced by brown howler monkeys (*Alouatta guariba clamitans*)
9 in peri-urban regions of Rio Grande do Sul (RS) and Santa Catarina (SC) states,
10 southern Brazil, by compiling negative interaction events (hereafter NIE) reported over
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15 collision (17%), and human mistreatment (12%). The occurrence of lethal injuries
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18 individuals in both study regions. The minimal adequate GLM model explained 83% of
19 the variation in NIE-related mortality. State, NIE type, and age-sex class were the main
20 predictors of mortality. Overall, mortality was lower in SC and higher among adult
21 females than in the other classes. We found that the survival of brown howler monkeys
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23 growing interactions with humans and domestic and stray dogs (*Canis familiaris*). We
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25 frequent animal crossing, the sterilization of stray dogs, and the sensitization of local
26 inhabitants on the importance of respecting and protecting wildlife to reduce their NIEs
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28

29 *Keywords:*

30 *Alouatta guariba clamitans*; Atlantic Forest; electrocution; dog attack; vehicle collision;
31 human-wildlife conflicts; environmental disturbance

32

33

34 **1. Introduction**

35

36 The accelerated destruction of natural habitats by human activities, particularly the
37 expansion of farming, cattle ranching and urbanization (United Nations, 2015; Piano et
38 al., 2020), has resulted in large-scale biodiversity loss (Estrada et al., 2017; Piano et al.,
39 2020). Urban expansion in regions characterized by fragmented landscapes is
40 particularly critical because it imposes additional pressures on threatened species that
41 increase the risk of local extirpation (United Nations, 2015; Salomão et al., 2019; Piano
42 et al., 2020), particularly when the adaptations of the remaining wildlife to the urban
43 landscape increase their encounters with humans (Schell et al., 2020). Therefore,
44 identifying the main threats faced by wildlife in peri-urban landscapes (i.e. mixed
45 landscapes of rural and urban elements that experience intense human pressure:
46 Douglas, 2006) is the first step to developing appropriate conservation strategies aimed
47 at preventing or mitigating their impacts on wild populations.

48 Urbanization-related processes cause negative impacts on animals worldwide
49 (e.g. butterflies and dung beetles: Salomão et al., 2019; Piano et al., 2020; reptiles:
50 Gonçalves et al., 2018; birds: Bernardino et al., 2018; primates and other mammals:
51 Bueno et al., 2015; Cibot et al., 2015; Katsis et al., 2018; Al-Razi et al., 2019; Galea
52 and Humle, 2021; Jones-Román et al., 2021; wild terrestrial vertebrates in general:
53 Villatoro et al., 2019; Rodríguez et al., 2020; Teixeira et al., 2020). Roads, power lines,
54 houses/buildings, and areas inhabited by domestic and stray dogs increase the risk of
55 death to individuals, particularly to those dispersing through the urban edge or adjacent
56 to it, thereby compromising gene flow between isolated populations immersed in
57 impermeable or semi-permeable urban matrices (Sol et al., 2013; Bernardino et al.,
58 2018; Schell et al., 2020).

59 Arboreal tropical primates are among the most vulnerable vertebrates to
60 urbanization because of their high dependence on emergent trees (Peres, 1994; Arroyo-
61 Rodríguez and Dias, 2009; Rovero et al., 2015) and because human encroachment into
62 their habitats is increasing (Estrada et al., 2017). While the impact of forest
63 fragmentation, selective logging and hunting on primate behavior and demography has
64 received significant attention (e.g. *Procolobus rufomitratu*s and *Colobus guereza*:
65 Gillespie and Chapman, 2008; *Alouatta* spp.: Arroyo-Rodríguez and Dias, 2009; *Ateles*
66 *geoffroyi*: Chaves et al., 2011; see also Marsh, 2003; Marsh and Chapman, 2013), the
67 impact of urbanization on primate survival in the Neotropics and Afrotropics has been
68 often neglected (but see Gordo et al., 2013; Cibot et al., 2015; Bicca-Marques, 2017;
69 Katsis et al., 2018; Cunneyworth and Duke, 2020; Cunneyworth and Slade, 2021).

70 Primates inhabiting small habitat patches (i.e. <10 ha; *sensu* Marsh et al., 2003),
71 which may be immersed in peri-urban landscapes, tend to face higher levels of food
72 scarcity, physiological stress and spatial isolation among other adverse consequences of
73 living in these environments (Fahrig, 2003; Arroyo-Rodríguez and Dias, 2009, Bicca-
74 Marques et al., 2020; Cunneyworth and Duke, 2020). Species that cope with these peri-
75 urban stressors can exploit food patches containing native and cultivated plants and
76 human-provisioned or wasted foods in the matrix as have been reported in Africa (e.g.
77 *Papio ursinus*: Beamish and O’Riain, 2004; *Pan troglodytes*: Cibot et al., 2015;
78 *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*: Chapman et al., 2016; *Colobus angolensis* and *Cercopithecus*
79 *mitis*: Cunneyworth and Slade, 2021) and the Americas (e.g. *Alouatta guariba*
80 *clamitans*: Chaves and Bicca-Marques, 2017; Corrêa et al., 2018; Back and Bicca-
81 Marques, 2019; *Cebus imitator*: Mckinney, 2011; *Saguinus bicolor*: Gordo et al., 2013).
82 However, peri-urban primates are also exposed to the aforementioned intense vehicle
83 traffic in roads and highways, powerline networks, dog attacks and human mistreatment
84 while navigating between food patches (e.g. Lokschin et al., 2007; Beamish and

85 O’Riain, 2004; Buss, 2012; Gordo et al., 2013; Bicca-Marques, 2017; Bicca-Marques et
86 al., 2020; Azoifeifa-Rojas et al., 2021; Cunneyworth and Slade., 2021; Galea and
87 Humle, 2021). Currently, at least 43% of all primate species (or 218 out of 505 spp.) are
88 affected by one or a combination of these urban stressors (Asia = 73 spp., Americas =
89 65 spp., mainland Africa = 63 spp., Galea and Humle, 2021).

90 This scenario illustrates the encroached Atlantic Forest landscapes (Ribeiro et
91 al., 2009), where 19 of the 27 nonhuman primates are endemic (Culot et al., 2019),
92 three are Near Threatened, four are Vulnerable, seven are Endangered and five are
93 Critically Endangered (IUCN, 2021). Although the Atlantic Forest is the most
94 developed and populated Brazilian biome (Mittermeier et al., 2004), the impact of
95 urbanization on the conservation status of its threatened primate fauna is poorly known.

96 The brown howler monkey (*Alouatta guariba clamitans*) is a Vulnerable (Buss
97 et al., 2019) endemic Atlantic Forest primate found in isolated forest patches immersed
98 in peri-urban and rural landscapes of south and southeastern Brazil. The taxon’s
99 ecology and behavior are well-known, particularly in south Brazil (Martins, 2006; Buss,
100 2012; Chaves and Bicca-Marques, 2013, 2017; Chaves et al., 2018; Corrêa et al., 2018;
101 Back and Bicca-Marques, 2019). However, the lack of long-term data on the influence
102 of peri-urban threats on its populations compromises our assessments of their
103 conservation importance.

104 In this study we compiled almost three decades of data on NIEs involving free-
105 ranging brown howler monkeys in urban and peri-urban landscapes in the two
106 southernmost Brazilian states (Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, hereafter RS and
107 SC, respectively). Specifically, we assessed (i) the types of NIE and their relative
108 frequency, (ii) the level of physical harm caused by each NIE, (iii) the proportion of
109 brown howler monkeys that recovered from distinct external injuries and the proportion
110 of those that were released back into their habitats, (iv) the relationship between age-sex

111 class and the frequency of each type of NIE, (v) the role played by season and day of
112 the week on the frequency of NIEs, and (vi) the potential predictors of NIE-related
113 outcomes (i.e. if animals survived or died because of the NIE). Based on the
114 aforementioned, we hypothesized that brown howler monkeys are imperiled in peri-
115 urban areas in both study regions because of the presence of dangerous urban elements
116 such as power lines, roads, and domestic dogs. In light of our findings, we propose
117 management strategies to prevent and reduce the occurrence of NIEs and fatalities
118 involving howler monkeys and other arboreal mammals in peri-urban landscapes.

119

120 **2. Materials and methods**

121

122 *2.1. Study species*

123

124 Brown howler monkeys, alike their congenics, are known for their high resilience to
125 habitat disturbance. This resilience has been associated with their highly flexible
126 folivorous-frugivorous diet, including the exploitation of cultivated foods in gardens
127 and orchards (Dias and Rangel-Negrín, 2015; Chaves and Bicca-Marques, 2016, 2017),
128 and their home ranges often <15 ha. Brown howler monkey populations in peri-urban
129 areas in southern Brazil are commonly confined to small (<10 ha) private forest
130 fragments (Printes et al., 2010; Chaves and Bicca-Marques, 2013; Corrêa et al., 2018).
131 These discrete subpopulations may interact as metapopulations and may therefore play
132 an important role in the conservation of this threatened species that is also highly
133 susceptible to outbreaks of yellow fever (Almeida et al., 2012; Bicca-Marques et al.,
134 2017; Buss et al., 2019).

135

136

137 2.2. *Study area and forest remnants*

138

139 In RS, we conducted this study in a ca. 200-km² region in the municipalities of
140 Viamão and Porto Alegre, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas of Viamão and the
141 district of Lami (Fig. 1, Table 1). We focused >90% of our sampling effort in an area of
142 110 km² (Fig. 1). In SC, we monitored a ca. 800-km² peri-urban region in the
143 municipalities of Blumenau, Indaial, Pomerode and Jaraguá do Sul (Fig. 1, Table 1).
144 Additionally, we occasionally monitored other districts of Porto Alegre, RS, and
145 municipalities along the coastal region of SC when local inhabitants reported NIEs with
146 brown howler monkeys (Fig. 1, Table S1).

147 Human populations grew as little as 5% in Viamão to as much as 21% in Indaial
148 from 2000 to 2010, reaching densities ranging from 160 people/km² in Viamão to 596
149 people/km² in Blumenau (Table 1). Most people (≥86%) live in peri-urban areas in the
150 study regions. The number of houses vary from about 4,000 in Lami to 97,000 in
151 Blumenau (IBGE, 2020; Table 1). Most of the study areas are surrounded by <1-ha to
152 100-ha Atlantic Forest fragments and scattered vegetation corridors in different
153 successional stages. Subtropical semideciduous forests dominate the vegetation in both
154 study regions.

155 Regardless of fragment size and level of official environmental protection,
156 brown howler monkeys that move between habitat patches in these peri-urban
157 landscapes face risks imposed by roads, power lines, and human settlements (Table 1).
158 These structural elements together with pastures and cultivated lands reduce matrix
159 permeability, compromising inter-path connectivity. Despite these threats for moving
160 and dispersing individuals and the human pressures on the plant community structure of
161 habitat patches (e.g. selective logging, residential development), brown howler monkey
162 populations have persisted.

163 2.3. *Data collection*

164

165 We recorded the NIEs involving brown howler monkeys between 1995 and
166 2021 in RS and between 1991 and 2020 in SC (Fig. S1). We used four sources of
167 information: (i) our own field observations, and reports from local (ii) inhabitants, (iii)
168 environmental authorities (i.e. municipal and state environmental secretariats,
169 Environmental Military Police /SC), and (iv) wildlife rehabilitation centers and
170 veterinary hospitals and clinics (Porto Alegre and Viamão, RS). We visited the location
171 of ~70% of reported NIEs to record the following information: geographic coordinates
172 using a Garmin GPS, type of NIE (electrocution or sub-lethal injuries in power lines,
173 EL; vehicle collision with any kind of motor-vehicle, VC; domestic dog attack, DA;
174 and human mistreatment (including illegal captivity and physical mistreatments, MT;
175 Fig. 2), external injury level (mild-medium, severe, or lethal) (Fig. S2), and, whenever
176 possible, the fate of the injured individual. Type MT involved firearm shooting, stoning,
177 and illegal captivity. The last is associated with chaining, inadequate feeding,
178 precarious sanitary conditions, and lack of veterinarian care.

179 The mild-medium injury level of brown howler monkeys included minor
180 scratches that did not require prompt veterinarian care (e.g. slight skin-burns and teeth
181 loss) and injuries that required surgery (e.g. bleeding, multiple dog bites, bone fractures,
182 amputation of fingers, limbs or tail; Fig. S2). Severe injuries included multiple wounds
183 that could lead to death without urgent veterinarian intervention (Fig. S2). These
184 injuries often impeded the release of the individual back into the wild upon its recovery.
185 Finally, lethal injuries often caused the howler's death up to 5 h after the NIE.

186 Whenever possible, we frozen the brown howler monkey carcasses in the
187 collection of biological material of CEPESBI in SC, and in the Laboratório de
188 Primatologia or the Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia/PUCRS, or the Museu de Ciências

189 Naturais (SEMA/RS) in RS. A subsample of carcasses from RS was necropsied in a
190 study on the taxon's helminth parasite fauna (Lopes et al., 2021). Injured brown howler
191 monkeys were rescued by local authorities, researchers, or volunteers, who, then, sent
192 them to veterinarian hospitals/clinics or authorized wildlife rehabilitation centers. The
193 full NIE dataset is available in Chaves et al. (2021).

194

195 *2.4. Database limitations*

196

197 Although we recorded NIEs involving brown howler monkeys during almost
198 three decades in each study region, we are conservative in extrapolating and
199 interpreting our findings because of several imitations inherent of this kind of long-term
200 study. We identified five major limitations that may have influenced the patterns that
201 we found. First, we certainly missed NIEs (Fig. 1) that were not detected, reported by
202 local people or not forwarded to us by local authorities. This situation is more likely
203 when the injuries were mild-medium and when the monkey returned to its group soon
204 after the NIE (Óscar M. Chaves, personal observation). Second, our sampling effort
205 varied over time (Fig. S1) given temporal changes in the number of researchers,
206 volunteers, and local informants. In this respect, the 1990s were poorly sampled
207 because of a lack of volunteers or institutional groups to rescue the brown howler
208 monkeys.

209 Third, the interest of local people in reporting NIEs may vary over time and
210 between study regions, compromising the standardization of sampling effort. While
211 there is a long-term, well-consolidated project (Projeto Bugio-FURB) monitoring NIEs
212 in SC that provides veterinarian care to injured animals, and that promotes the
213 participation of local inhabitants, a similar interinstitutional effort is incipient in RS.

214 Fourth, given the large sampling areas in both study regions (see Fig. 1) and the lack of

215 reliable data on the size of their brown howler monkey populations, we could not
216 estimate the proportion of individuals dying after NIEs. Finally, local environmental
217 authorities were more active collaborators in SC than in RS. This difference may
218 explain the greater number of records of human mistreatment in SC. Despite these and
219 other limitations, our database represents a useful description of the main threats faced
220 by brown howler monkeys living in the forest-urban interface for promoting their
221 conservation via the design of appropriate management strategies.

222

223 *2.5. Characterization of the study regions*

224

225 We estimated 10 structural variables of the peri-urban matrices for those NIEs
226 for which we have precise geographic coordinates, date of occurrence, type of NIE, and
227 injury level ($n = 335$, 212 in SC and 123 in RS, see Table 2) to assess their relationship
228 with NIE lethality (i.e. the probability of an individual to die from a particular NIE): (1)
229 matrix element where the NIE occurred, (2) NIE type, (3) number of houses within a
230 500-m radius from the location of the NIE, (4) total number of elements in the peri-
231 urban matrix (e.g. roads, houses, buildings, airports, power lines, gardens, orchards,
232 pastures, and others) within a 500-m radius from the location of the NIE, (5) type of
233 road (primary or secondary), (6) road material (paved or unpaved), (7) distance to the
234 nearest road, (8) distance to the nearest small forest fragment <10 ha, (9) distance to the
235 nearest ≥ 70 ha-forest fragment, and (10) distance to the nearest house. We estimated
236 these traits by exporting the Global Positioning System (GPS) locations of the NIEs
237 from the software Map Source 6.16.3 (Garmin[®]) to Google Earth Pro (Google[®]). We
238 chose a high-resolution satellite image (with a low percentage of clouds and shadows)
239 of the year of the NIE for each GPS position using the option 'historic images,' which
240 includes images from 2002 to 2019. We analyzed Landsat 5 images in the software

241 QGIS 3.6 to estimate the variables for those NIEs that occurred between 1991 and 2001

242 ($n = 46$).

243

244 *2.6. Statistical analyses*

245

246 We performed Chi-square tests for proportions using the R function ‘prop.test’ to
247 compare the proportion of occurrence of each type of NIE involving brown howler
248 monkeys, age-sex classes, seasons, and days of the week. When we found significant
249 differences, we compared the proportion of records in each variable via post-hoc
250 proportion contrasts using the R function ‘pairwise.prop.test’ with a Bonferroni
251 correction. We performed generalized linear mixed models (GLMM; Zuur et al., 2009)
252 using the function ‘lmer’ of the R package lme4 to assess the influence of the 16
253 predictor variables listed in Table 2 on NIE-related mortality. We set the binomial
254 family error for the response variable (i.e. if individuals died or survived following the
255 NIE) and a log link for running the models. We specified the 16 variables as fixed
256 factors and the sampled year-ID as random factor to account for repeated-measures
257 during the same years. We considered only two second-order interactions that are
258 ecologically relevant, namely NIE type*matrix element and NIE type*age-sex class, to
259 minimize overparameterization and problems of convergence of the global model (the
260 model containing all fixed and random factors) due to the inclusion of a large number
261 of variables and their interactions (Grueber et al., 2011). Before running this analysis
262 we tested the variables for multicollinearity using the ‘vifstep’ function of R package
263 dplyr. We included all variables in the global model because their Variance Inflation
264 Factors (VIFs) were <3 .

265 Then, we used the model simplification procedure to determine the minimal
266 adequate (most ‘parsimonious’) model. In this method, the maximal model is simplified

267 over a backward stepwise procedure until a model that produces the least unexplained
268 variation or the lowest Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) is found (Crawley, 2012).
269 We used the AICc to select the 'best' model as recommended when sample size/number
270 of predictor variables <40 (Burnham and Anderson, 2003). We used a likelihood ratio
271 test over the R function 'anova' to test the significance of the 'best model' in
272 comparison with the null model (the model including only the random factor). Finally,
273 we used the 'r.squaredGLMM' function of the R package MuMIn (Barton, 2016) to
274 estimate an equivalent of the coefficient of determination or pseudo-R² for the 'best'
275 GLMM. The datasets used to perform these analyses are available in Chaves et al.
276 (2021). We ran all statistical analyses in R v.3.6.3 (R CoreTeam, 2020).

277

278 **3. Results**

279

280 *3.1. Major NIEs involving brown howler monkeys in peri-urban matrices*

281

282 We recorded 540 NIEs involving brown howler monkeys in the peri-urban
283 matrices of RS ($n = 248$) and SC ($n = 292$), from which we discarded 56 from further
284 analysis because of incomplete information on the date, NIE type and/or injury level.
285 Then, we collected complete information for 484 NIEs. In addition to our main study
286 regions, we included NIEs in other 11 municipalities in RS and 24 in SC (6% and 22%
287 of state's NIEs, respectively, Table S1). The major NIEs were electrocution (37% of
288 488 NIEs with complete information), followed by dog attack (34%), vehicle collision
289 (17%), and human mistreatment (12%, Figs. 2 and 3 A-C). The vast majority of NIEs
290 occurred at daytime when brown howler monkeys walked on power lines (Fig. 2 A-D),
291 tried to cross paved or unpaved roads (Fig. 2 E-H), or descended to the ground (Fig. 2 I-
292 J) to cross canopy gaps or to move between forest patches. A high percentage of the

293 dog attacks (66% in RS and 49% in SC, Fig. 3 A, C) were lethal. On no occasion did
294 the killer dogs eat the monkey's flesh. Dog attacks involved stray and domestic dogs,
295 and in all cases, they abandoned the carcass *in situ* upon the monkey's death.
296 Furthermore, brown howler monkeys kept illegally in captivity, commonly infants and
297 juveniles, represented most records of human mistreatment (87% of 60 NIEs). The
298 remaining cases were brown howler monkeys shot with ball-bearing guns by local
299 inhabitants.

300 The frequency of each type of NIE involving brown howler monkeys varied
301 between RS and SC. The number of records also differed among NIE types in RS (EL =
302 43% of 222 NIEs, DA = 31%, VC = 18%, and MT = 8%; $\chi^2 = 81$, d.f. = 3, $P < 0.0001$;
303 contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant comparisons; Fig. 3 A) and SC (DA = 37% of 262
304 NIEs, EL = 31%, VC = 17%, and MT = 15%; $\chi^2 = 45$, d.f. = 3, $P < 0.0001$, contrasts, P
305 < 0.05 in all significant comparisons, Fig. 3 B).

306

307 3.2. Injury level in brown howler monkeys during NIEs

308

309 Most RS brown howler monkeys involved in EL (54%), DA (66%) and VC
310 (69%) suffered lethal injuries (contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant comparisons). The
311 remaining individuals survived with mild-medium (38%, 26%, and 21%, respectively)
312 or severe injuries (8%, 7%, and 10%, respectively; Fig. 3 A). A higher proportion of the
313 individuals involved in EL suffered lethal or mild-medium injuries than severe injuries,
314 while a higher proportion of those involved in DA and VC suffered lethal than mild-
315 medium or severe injuries (Fig. 3 A, contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant comparisons).

316 Lethal injuries were less frequent in SC brown howler monkeys. They ranged
317 from ca. 10% in MT to 49% in DA (Fig. 3 B). The other individuals involved in these
318 NIEs survived with mild-medium (42%, 39%, and 57%, respectively) or severe injuries

319 (10%, 13%, and 7%, respectively, Fig. 3 B). The proportion of victims of these NIEs
320 with lethal or mild-medium injuries was higher than the proportion with severe injuries
321 (Fig. 3 B, contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant comparisons). A higher proportion of
322 brown howler monkeys involved in MT suffered mild-medium (RS = 11%. SC = 10%)
323 than severe or lethal injuries (RS = 5%, SC = 15%; Fig. 3 A, B, contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in
324 all significant comparisons).

325 Finally, 56% (269 out of 484 NIEs, Table S2) of the brown howler monkeys
326 with lethal injuries or with mild-medium or severe injuries that were alive immediately
327 following the NIE died after <1 to 8 h during the transport to the veterinarian clinic or
328 during the emergency veterinarian care. The health problems associated with their
329 deaths included cardiorespiratory problems, lung perforations, internal hemorrhages,
330 myases, and mutilations. This mortality represented 61% and 51% of the total number
331 of NIEs with complete data reported for RS and SC, respectively (Table S2). Injured
332 and/or mutilated survivors that were kept for life in public or private wildlife rescue
333 centers represented 25% (RS) and 15% (SC), whereas individuals released back into
334 their habitats summed only 7% (RS) and 2% (SC). The fate of the remaining survivors
335 is unknown.

336

337 3.3. NIE distribution among age-sex classes

338

339 NIEs involving brown howler monkeys affected all age-sex classes in both study
340 regions with a bias towards adult males and adult females (RS: $\chi^2 = 115$, d.f. = 7, $P <$
341 0.0001 ; SC: $\chi^2 = 158$, d.f. = 7, $P < 0.0001$; contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant
342 comparisons; Fig. 3 C, D). The proportion of records per NIE type was often similar
343 within each age-sex class (Fig. 3 C, D). The exceptions were higher proportions of EL
344 than MT records for adults of both sexes in RS and for adult females in SC. In SC,

345 juvenile males were more impacted by DA than by VC, and juvenile females were more
346 impacted by DA than by EL and MT (contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant comparisons,
347 Fig. 3 D).

348

349 *3.4. Temporal patterns in the number of NIEs involving brown howler monkeys*

350

351 The average number of NIEs involving brown howler monkeys per year (mean
352 \pm SD) was similar between RS and SC (13 ± 8 vs 12 ± 9 NIEs, respectively, Fig. S1).
353 There was a higher frequency of NIEs in the summer and fall than in the winter in RS
354 ($\chi^2 = 30$, d.f. = 3, $P < 0.0001$; contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant comparisons, Fig. 4
355 A). The number of NIEs also differed among months in each season (χ^2 ranged from 16
356 to 57, d.f. ranged from 3 to 4 in all cases, $P < 0.001$ in all cases; Fig. 4 A). The month
357 with the greatest number of NIEs in summer, fall, winter, and spring were, respectively,
358 March, April and May, September, and October (contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant
359 comparisons, Fig. 4 A). In contrast, the frequency of NIEs in SC was similar in all
360 seasons ($\chi^2 = 5$, d.f. = 3, $P = 0.2$, Fig. 4 B). However, the number of NIEs also differed
361 among months in each season (χ^2 ranged from 15 to 23, d.f. ranged from 3 to 4, $P <$
362 0.005 in all cases; Fig. 4 B), and the month with the highest number of NIEs in summer,
363 fall, winter, and spring were, respectively, January, April, August, and November
364 (contrasts, $P < 0.05$ in all significant comparisons, Fig. 4 B).

365 The frequency of NIEs involving brown howler monkeys also differed between
366 the days of the week in RS ($\chi^2 = 18$, d.f. = 6, $P = 0.005$), because of a greater number of
367 reports of NIEs on Fridays than on Tuesdays (proportion contrast, $P < 0.05$; Fig. 4 C).
368 We also found differences in the frequency of NIEs in SC ($\chi^2 = 19$, d.f. = 6, $P = 0.005$,
369 Fig. 4 D). with a greater number of NIEs occurring on Mondays, Tuesdays,

370 Wednesdays and Fridays than on Sundays (contrasts, $P < 0.05$ all significant

371 comparisons; Fig. 4 D).

372

373 3.5. Predictors of NIE lethality

374

375 The minimal adequate GLMM explained 83% of the variation in the lethality of NIEs

376 involving brown howler monkeys and included the predictors ‘study region’, ‘type of

377 NIE’, ‘age-sex class’, ‘day of the week’, and ‘distance to the nearest large forest

378 fragment’ ($R^2_c = 0.83$; Table 3). NIE-related mortality was lower in SC than in RS ($\beta =$

379 -1.2 , z-value = -3 , $P < 0.01$) and for MT than for the other NIEs ($\beta = -1.8$, z-value = -3 ,

380 $P < 0.01$). Lethality was higher for adult females than for individuals belonging to other

381 age-sex classes ($\beta = 1.9$, z-value = 2 , $P < 0.05$) and for Tuesday NIEs than for those

382 occurring in the other days ($\beta = -1.2$, z-value = 2 , $P < 0.05$; Table 3).

383

384 4. Discussion

385

386 In this study we present an important scientific diagnostic of the major threats

387 faced by brown howler monkeys in peri-urban landscapes of southern Brazil. We found

388 that electrocution was the most frequent NIE affecting the physical integrity of brown

389 howler monkeys alike reported for wildlife worldwide. Power lines kill hundreds of

390 primates (e.g. *Alouatta guariba clamitans*: Lokschin et al., 2007; *Colobus angolensis*,

391 *Cercopithecus mitis*, and *Otolemur garnettii*: Katsis et al., 2018; *Macaca sinica*: Dittus,

392 2020; 8 spp. in the Americas, 16 spp. in Africa and 23 spp. in Asia: Galea and Humle,

393 2021; *Alouatta palliata*: Azofeifa-Rojas et al., 2021; Jones-Román et al., 2021) and

394 hundreds of thousands to millions of birds and other vertebrates each year (Bernardino

395 et al., 2018; Biasotto and Kindel, 2018). Therefore, the implementation of management

396 strategies including the trimming of tree branches, insulation of powerlines, installation
397 of wildlife crossings (i.e. canopy-to-canopy aerial bridges), and an efficient protection
398 of biological corridors (e.g. live fences with native trees) are urgent not only to prevent
399 the electrocution of arboreal wildlife, but to increase habitat connectivity and gene flow
400 between animal populations (Table 4). Similar strategies have been suggested to avoid
401 the electrocution of primates in peri-urban African and Asian landscapes (e.g. Katsis et
402 al., 2018; Al-Razi et al., 2019; Cunneyworth and Slade, 2021; Galea and Humle, 2021).

403 Attacks by stray or domestic dogs were the second major incident involving
404 brown howler monkeys in both study regions. This finding supports evidence that
405 domestic and feral dogs regularly kill primates (e.g. *Alouatta guariba clamitans*: Buss,
406 2012; Bicca-Marques et al., 2020; Lopes et al., 2021; *C. nigritus*: Oliveira et al., 2008)
407 and other terrestrial mammals (e.g. Buttlar et al., 2004, Lacerda et al., 2009; Home et
408 al., 2017; Gatti et al., 2018). In the study regions, these attacks often occur when brown
409 howler monkeys descend to the ground to access cultivated fruits in subsistence
410 orchards guarded by domestic dogs (Buss 2012; Chaves and Bicca-Marques, 2017;
411 Corrêa et al., 2018) or, when they cross roads, gardens or pastures to access another
412 Atlantic Forest remnant (Óscar M. Chaves and João Claudio Godoy, personal
413 observations). In most cases, death or severe injuries (e.g. organ perforations,
414 mutilations, multiple bites, and skin cuts: see database in Chaves et al., 2021) are the
415 outcome of dog attacks. Critically injured individuals cannot be returned to their
416 habitats. For instance, most (ca. 70%) brown howler monkeys surviving dog attacks in
417 RS and sent to the Rincão do Araticum Wildlife Rescue Center for recovery have never
418 returned to their habitats because of, mainly lung, infections or tail, foot, or hand
419 amputations (Silvia B. Ribeiro, personal communication). Therefore, population control
420 of stray dogs is a necessary management strategy to reduce dog-wildlife NIEs in the
421 study peri-urban matrices (Table 4).

422 Although less frequently reported, vehicle collisions and human mistreatments
423 also deteriorate the health and compromise the survival of brown howler monkeys in
424 the study regions. These NIEs were expected given (i) the high fragmentation and urban
425 encroachment into the Atlantic Forest remnants that brown howler monkeys inhabit
426 (Ribeiro et al., 2009), (ii) the frequent use of the ground by brown howler monkeys that
427 supplement their diets with wild and cultivated foods found in scattered food patches
428 separated by roads and other potentially lethal landscape elements (Buss, 2012; Chaves
429 and Bicca-Marques, 2017; Corrêa et al., 2018), as well as by those dispersing from their
430 natal groups (Strier et al., 2001) isolated in the fragmented landscape, (iii) the howlers'
431 limited ability to travel fast on the ground, and (iv) the inefficient Brazilian public
432 policies to prevent/mitigate road kills (Gonçalves et al., 2018). Vehicle collision is a
433 major cause of wildlife mortality in southern Brazil (Teixeira et al., 2020). A country-
434 wide estimate indicated that ca. 1.3 million vertebrates (10% of which are large/medium
435 birds, reptiles, primates, and terrestrial mammals) are killed every day along the
436 Brazilian network of streets and roads (CBEE, 2019). Despite the lack of reliable data
437 on the number of primates affected by VC in Brazil each year, the country is considered
438 a world leader in the frequency of primate roadkills together with Indonesia and
439 Equatorial Guinea (Galea and Humle, 2021). Finally, the reported percentage of
440 mistreatments is probably underestimated. This NIE is rarely denounced by local
441 inhabitants probably because they are either afraid of retaliations or because they are
442 poorly informed on how to fill out a complaint.

443 The longer arms reach of adults compared with that of immature individuals
444 increases their risk of touching cables with opposite charges simultaneously (Printes,
445 1999), thereby potentially explaining the highest frequency of electrocuted adult brown
446 howler monkeys. The greater number of dog attacks and vehicle collisions on adults is
447 compatible with their leading role in group travel both on the ground (Bicca-Marques

448 and Calegario-Marques, 1997) and in the canopy, as reported for black-and-gold howler
449 monkeys (*Alouatta caraya*; Fernández et al., 2013). Whereas these morphological and
450 behavioral age differences may explain the prevalence of adults involved in the most
451 common NIEs, two non-mutually exclusive hypotheses may explain the higher impact
452 of MT on infant and juvenile individuals. First, these individuals may be orphans
453 rescued or harassed by local people following the aforementioned NIEs (see Chaves et
454 al., 2020). Second, the stressful conditions that characterize their captive maintenance
455 as MT are incompatible with their survival to adulthood.

456 Currently, we cannot evaluate whether the patterns that we found on the impact
457 of each type of NIE on brown howler monkey populations have been biased by
458 potential differences in detectability or in the propensity of local people to report them.
459 This uncertainty results from the wealth of interacting and confounding variables in
460 opportunistic studies relying on citizen science such as ours. Therefore, addressing such
461 complex challenge in large study regions will require herculean efforts to systematically
462 monitor target animal populations using appropriately-designed methods and the full
463 collaboration of local people.

464 Irrespective of NIE type, most brown howler monkeys suffered lethal or mild-
465 medium injuries (e.g. lung perforations, severe skin-burns, and body mutilations; see
466 Fig. S2) and died soon after the incident or a few hours later. The overall fate of brown
467 howler monkeys involved in NIEs was even worse if we consider that 93 to 98% of
468 those surviving following veterinarian care were condemned to captive life. Also, it is
469 not possible to impede that the rare individuals returning to their habitat continue
470 exposed to the same risks, as seen in handicapped baboons (*Papio ursinus*) that exploit
471 cultivated fruit and human-provided foods in Cape Peninsula, South Africa (Beamish
472 and O’Riain, 2014). These findings highlight that brown howler monkeys are in great
473 danger in urban and peri-urban areas of southern Brazil as have been suggested for the

474 study areas (e.g. Printes, 1999; Buss, 2012; Correa et al., 2018; Bicca-Marques et al.,
475 2020). Victims of mistreatments were the exception. Probably owing to their use as
476 pets, severe injuries were rare. It is not uncommon for “owners” to seek some
477 veterinary care for their pets in the study regions (Gerson Buss and Júlio César Souza
478 Jr., personal communication). However, as hypothesized above, the rarity of adult
479 brown howler monkeys as pets places doubt on their long-term survival under these
480 conditions.

481 The removal of individuals from wild populations via death or life in captivity
482 compromises the long-term conservation of brown howler monkeys in Atlantic Forest
483 fragments with cascading consequences at the community level given their important
484 role as seed dispersers (Martins, 2006; Chaves et al., 2018). A single adult brown
485 howler monkey can disperse ca. 52,000 >2-mm seeds per year (Chaves et al., 2018).
486 Considering estimates of brown howler monkey population density in other areas of the
487 state of RS (see Table S3), we estimate that the injured individuals that we have
488 reported ($n = 248$) represent ca. 10% of the taxon’s population in the study region.
489 Given the limitations of our data collection and the fact that adult females involved in
490 NIEs can be pregnant, the estimate above is conservative.

491 We also need to consider the economic cost associated with the rescue,
492 veterinary care, and maintenance of handicapped individuals. Overall, the rehabilitation
493 of urban wildlife concerns managers in developing countries, such as Brazil, because its
494 high cost is rarely reimbursed by local or state governments (Karesh, 1995; Perry et al.,
495 2020). For instance, the costs associated with rehabilitation and maintenance of brown
496 howler monkeys in RS and SC (considering the maximum lifespan reported for captive
497 howler monkeys, i.e. 20 years) can reach US\$45,000 per individual during a 15-year
498 period (Table S4). Considering only the basic costs of maintenance in captivity, rescue

499 centers may spend US\$ 177/individual/month in SC (Julio Cesar Souza Jr., personal
500 communication).

501 Despite evidence of seasonal patterns in the occurrence of NIEs (i.e. mostly in
502 the summer, when there is an increase in tourism in the RS study region; Buss, 2012),
503 we did not find consistent patterns in both study regions. NIEs occurred throughout the
504 year in both RS and SC. However, whereas they occurred at higher frequencies in the
505 summer and fall than in the winter in RS, we found no seasonal differences in NIE
506 frequency in SC. Whether this difference simply reflects the temporal characteristics of
507 the sampling efforts in RS and SC (see Methods) or legitimate differences in landscape
508 use resulting from higher numbers of people living or visiting the RS study region or
509 driving through it during their summer vacation remains to be investigated. In SC, the
510 sampling conducted by Projeto Bugio-FURB ([https://www.furb.br/web/5579/](https://www.furb.br/web/5579/projeto-bugio/apresentacao) projeto-
511 bugio/apresentacao) was more uniformly distributed throughout the year. The leading
512 role of Projeto Bugio, a research institute with a consolidated history of rescuing,
513 caring, and rehabilitating brown howler monkeys in SC, may also explain the marked
514 influence of study region on NIE-related mortality (Table 4).

515

516 **5. Conclusions**

517

518 To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study collating long-term data on
519 the main threats faced by wild Neotropical primates living in peri-urban landscapes. We
520 confirmed the aforementioned negative impacts of urbanization on wildlife health and
521 survival described in short-term studies of primates and other vertebrates. We found
522 that the fragmentation and urbanization of the Atlantic Forest represent serious (and
523 often ignored) conservation challenges for the long-term survival of arboreal primates
524 (and probably many other vertebrates). The severity of this scenario is further

525 highlighted by the fact that despite flexibly adjusting their behavior to diverse
526 anthropogenic landscapes (including peri-urban regions), alike other vertebrates (Sol et
527 al., 2010; Schell et al., 2020), the long-term persistence of howler monkeys (*Alouatta*
528 spp.) in fragmented peri-urban landscapes is at high risk (Bicca-Marques et al., 2020).
529 As we have shown conservatively, hostile elements of the urban matrix, such as power
530 lines, roads, domestic dogs, and wildlife traffickers, impose a much higher death rate to
531 peri-urban populations than that seen in habitats more isolated from people. Therefore,
532 designing and implementing appropriate strategies to prevent or mitigate human-
533 wildlife NIEs are crucial to save urban- and peri-urban-tolerant species from
534 extirpation.

535

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548

549 **Appendix A. Supplementary data**

550 Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/>

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770 Figure legends

771

772 **Fig. 1.** Location of NIEs involving brown howler monkeys in Santa Catarina and Rio Grande
773 do Sul states, southern Brazil. Color circles represent each type of NIE. The white polygon
774 includes >98% of NIEs, while the red polygon includes the study region with higher density
775 of NIEs (excluding outliers). Free open-access images (available at
776 <http://www.cbbers.inpe.br/>) from 22 November 2021.

777

778 **Fig. 2.** Main threats faced by brown howler monkeys (*Alouatta guariba clamitans*) in urban
779 and peri-urban areas in Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brazil. Adult female using a power
780 line to cross a road (A), individuals electrocuted and/or mutilated on power lines (B-D),
781 monkeys crossing roads to access food patches (E, F), adult and sub-adult males vehicle
782 collision (G, H), adult male on cultivated tree in a subsistence orchard guarded by dogs (I),
783 juvenile individual walking on the ground near a domestic dog (J), victim of mistreatment in
784 a peri-urban area of RS (K). Photos by Ó. M. Chaves (A-C, H), J. C. Godoy (D-F), G. Buss
785 (G, K) and J. P. Back (I-J).

786

787 **Fig. 3.** Comparison of the proportion of NIEs involving brown howler monkeys according to
788 the type of incident (a, b) and the age-sex class (c, d) in the States of Rio Grande do Sul (top
789 panels) and Santa Catarina (bottom panels). Different Lucida handwriting capital letters on
790 the bars indicate differences among incident types or age-sex classes, and lowercase letters
791 inside the bars indicate differences among injury levels or incident types (proportion
792 contrasts, $P < 0.05$). When no significant differences were detected within each incident type
793 or age-sex class (proportion contrasts, $P > 0.05$), no lowercase is show. Type of incident: EL
794 = electrocution, DA = dog attack, RO= vehicle collision, and MT= human mistreatment

795 (further details in Methods). Numbers in parentheses at the bottom of bars represent the
796 number of events per type of NIE or age-sex class. Age categories: A = adult, S= subadult, J
797 = juvenile, and I = infant. Total number of NIEs considered in each graph: 222 (a), 151 (b),
798 262 (c), and 225 (d).

799

800 **Fig. 4.** Temporal patterns in the proportion of NIEs according to season (a, b) and day of the
801 week (c, d) in Rio Grande do Sul (top panels) and Santa Catarina (bottom panels) states.

802 Different Lucida handwriting capital letters on the bars indicate differences among seasons or
803 day of the week (proportion contrasts, $P < 0.05$). When the proportion of NIEs was similar

804 (proportion contrasts, $P > 0.05$) among seasons or days, no capital letter is shown. Lowercase
805 letters on the bars in (a) and (b) indicate differences among months within each season

806 (contrasts, $P < 0.05$). When the proportion of NIEs was similar between months (contrasts, P
807 > 0.05), no lowercase is shown. Days: Monday (Mon), Tuesday (Tue), Wednesday (Wed),

808 Thursday (Thu), Friday (Fri), Saturday (Sat), and Sunday (Sun). Numbers in parentheses at

809 the bottom of bars represent the number of NIEs per season or day recorded until April 2021.

810 Total number of NIEs considered in each graph: 214 (a), 199 (b), 261 (c), and 260 (d).

Table 1. Demographic variables of the main municipalities/cities where NIEs involving brown howler monkeys were monitored in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, southern Brazil

Variable ^a	Rio Grande do Sul			Santa Catarina ^b				
	Viamão	Lami	RS	BL	IN	PO	JS	SC
Area (km ²)	1,496	28.2	281,707	518.6	430.8	214.3	530.1	95,731
Population size in 2019	252,872	4,642	11,377,239	357,199	69,425	33,447	177,697	7,164,788
Urban population	224,943	—	9,100,291	294,773	52,927	23,823	132,800	5,247,913
Rural population	14,441	—	1,593,64	14,238	1,927	3,936	10,323	1,000,523
% population in urban areas	94.0	—	99.8	95.4	96.5	85.8	92.8	84.0
Population density (ind./km ²)	160	165	39.8	596.1	127.3	129.3	270.3	65.3
Population growth (%)	5.3	—	20.0	13.5	21.0	17.0	19.5	12.8
#vehicles in 2018	95,734	—	5,365,382	197,586	33,894	18,100	84,776	3,672,593
#Urban residences	70,514	4,030	3,084,215	96,866	16,753	7,423	42,070	1,691,822
#Rural residences	4,883	—	515,589	4,196	614	1,130	3,036	301,190

^aInformation sources were: Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (population census 2010; IBGE, 2020) and Departamento Nacional de Trânsito (number of vehicles 2018; Denatran, 2020). Population growth was based on the last 10 years (i.e. the differences between the population estimate of 2019 and the population census of 2010). Vehicles included: cars, pickups, trucks, buses, and minibuses.

^bMunicipality abbreviations: BL=Blumenau, IN= Indaial, PO=Pomerode, and JS=Jaraguá do Sul.

— Information not available.

Table 2. Potential predictors of post-NIE lethality in brown howler monkeys in the peri-urban matrices of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina states, southern Brazil

Predictor ^a	Description	Effect ^b
<i>Structure of peri-urban matrix</i>		
1) Matrix element	Element of the urban matrix where the NIE occurred, including roads, gardens, cities, fragment edges, forest remnants, etc.	(+)
2) NIE type	Main NIE involving brown howler monkeys: electrocution (EL), dog attack (DA), vehicle collision (VC), and mistreatment (MT)	N.A.
3) # houses	Number of houses or clearly identifiable roofs around a 500-m radius from the NIE location	(+)
4) # elements	Total number of elements constituting the anthropogenic matrix (e.g. roads, airports, power lines, houses, buildings, gardens, and pastures) around a radius of 500 m from the NIE location	(+)
5) Type of road	Type of road nearest to the NIE location: primary large road (>15 m wide) with high vehicle traffic (P), and secondary small roads (<10 m wide) with low vehicle traffic (S)	P>S
6) Road material	If the road was paved or unpaved	paved>unpaved
7) DNR	Distance from the NIE location to the nearest primary or secondary road (m)	(-)
8) DNS	Distance from the NIE location to the nearest small fragment <10 ha	(+)
9) DNL	Distance from the NIE location to the nearest large fragment > 80 ha	(+)
10) DNH	Distance from the NIE location to the nearest house	(-)
<i>Other factors</i>		
11) Age-sex	Age-sex class of the individual, including adults (A), subadults (S), and juveniles (J) of both sexes.	N.A.
12) Study region	The study was performed in two Brazilian states: Santa Catarina (SC) and Rio Grande do Sul (RS)	N.A.
13) Season	Season of the year in which each NIE occurred: summer (Su), fall (F), winter (W), and spring (Sp)	>S
14) Day	Day of the week in which each NIE occurred: Monday (Mon), Tuesday (Tue), Wednesday (Wed), Thursday (Thu), Friday (Fri), Saturday (Sat), and Sunday (Sun)	>Sat/Sun
15) Incident*element	Interaction between the type of NIE and the matrix element	N.A.
16) Incident*age-sex	Interaction between the type of NIE and the age-sex category	N.A.

^aTen physical characteristics of the peri-urban matrices estimated in this study enhanced in bold.

^bExpected effect according to available evidence: positive (+), negative (-), higher (>), and non-assessed (N.A.).

Table 3. Minimal adequate GLMM predicting the lethality of NIE involving brown howler monkeys in the peri-urban anthropogenic matrices of southern Brazil

Predictors	Parameters ^a				
	β	SE	z-value	AICc	R^2_c
Model: study region+NIE+age-sex+day+dlf			6.2**	320	0.83
<i>Study region</i>					
Santa Catarina	-1.19	0.36	-3.3**		
<i>Type of NIE</i>					
Mistreatment	-1.76	0.57	-3.1**		
Vehicle collision	-0.61	0.44	-1.4		
Electrocution	-0.30	0.39	-0.8		
<i>Age-sex class (age-sex)</i>					
Adult female	1.92	0.93	2.1*		
Subadult male	1.66	1.10	1.6		
Adult male	1.32	0.87	1.5		
Juvenile female	1.44	1.06	1.4		
<i>Day of the week (day)</i>					
Tuesday	1.19	0.59	2.1*		
Thursday	0.72	0.57	1.3		
<i>Distance to the nearest large forest (dlf)</i>	-0.00	0.00	-0.9		

^aParameters shown: partial regression coefficients (β_i), standard errors that incorporate model uncertainty (SE), Akaike's Information Criterion for small samples (AICc), and pseudo- R^2 (R^2_c) indicating the percentage of the variance explained by the fixed and random factors in the minimal adequate model. Significance level: * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$.

Table 4. Fifteen potential management strategies to minimize the number of conflicts involving brown howler monkeys in anthropogenic peri-urban matrices of south Brazil

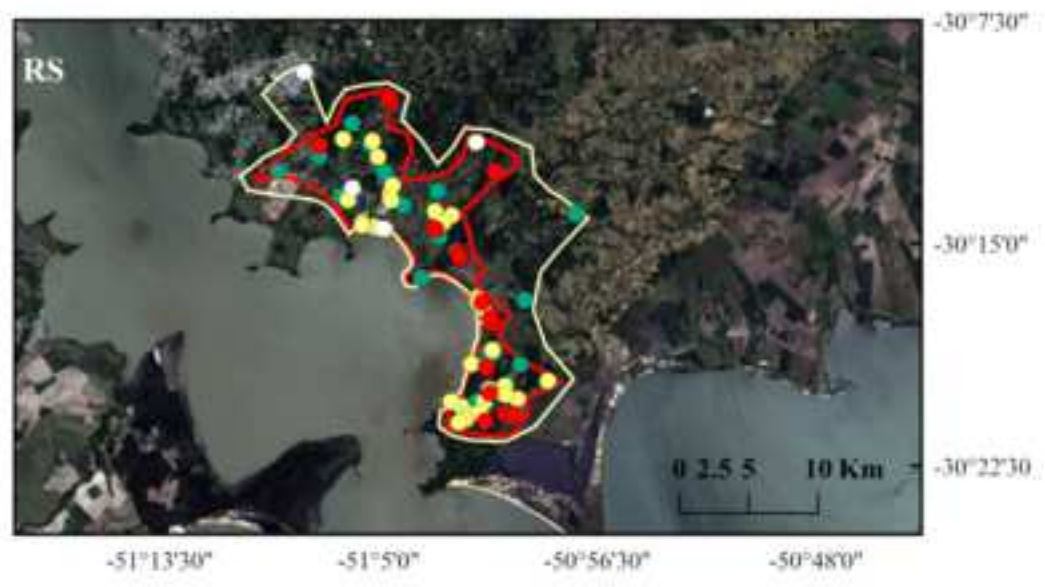
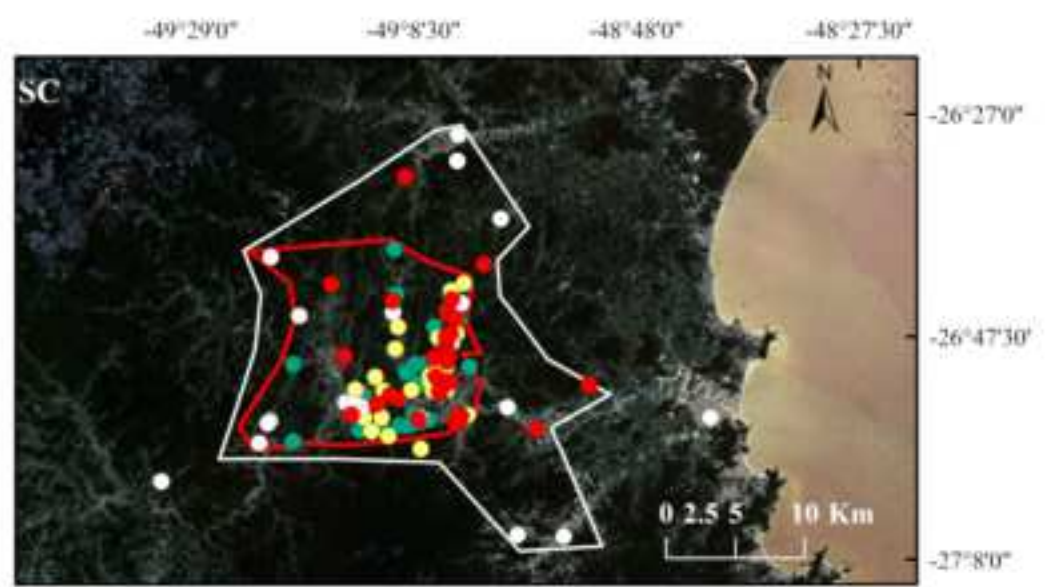
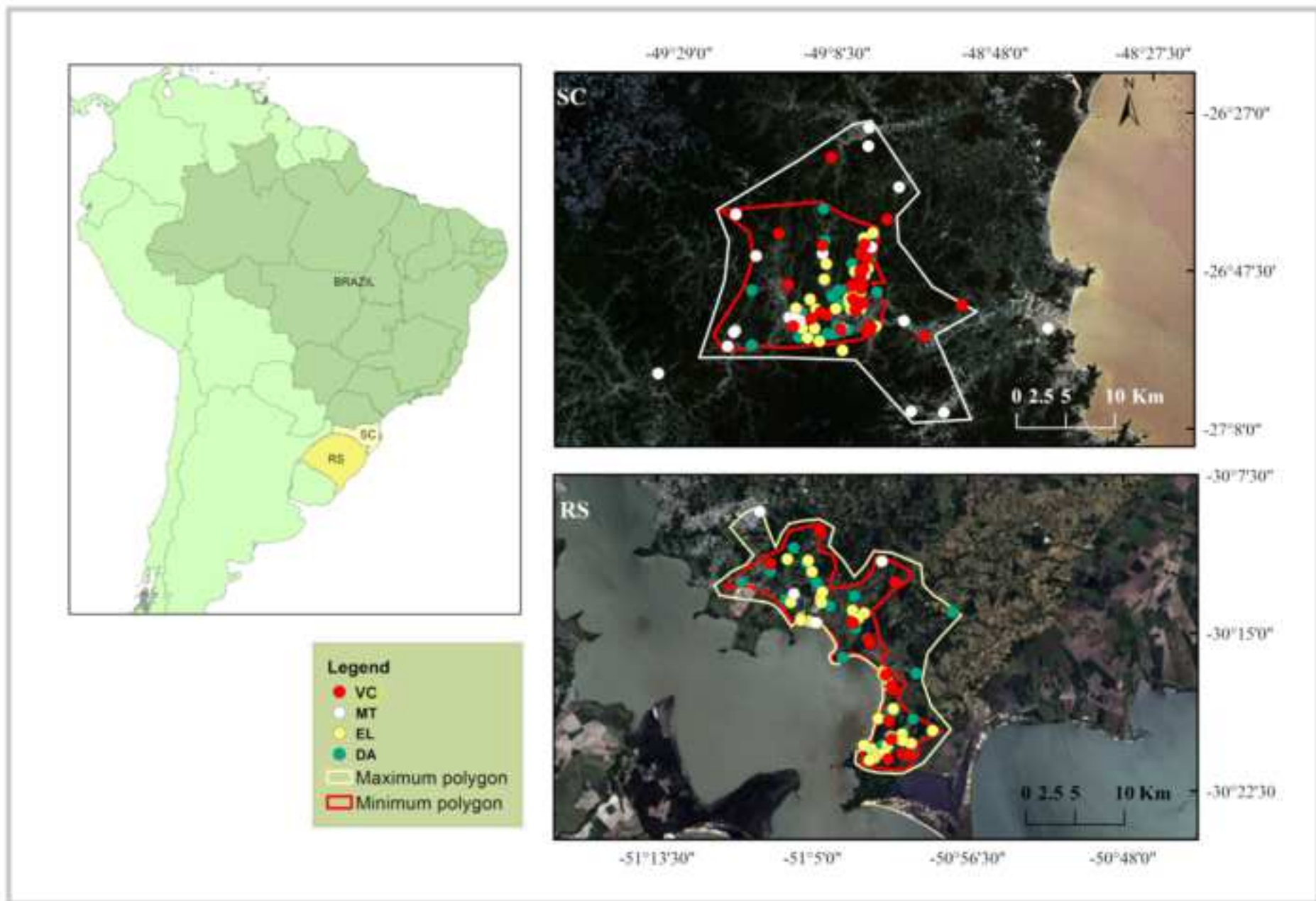
Type of NIE	Management strategy	Description	Ref. ^b
EL, DA, VC, MT	1) Environmental education program	Activities related to the sensitization of local inhabitants on the importance of preventing NIE involving wildlife.	1-3
	2) Creation of a specialized network	Interdisciplinary group devoted to monitor, rescue, care, rehabilitate, and release recovered animals back into their habitat. This group needs to operate 7 days/week.	1-3
EL, DA, VC	3) Establishment of urban protected areas	Protected areas inside or adjacent to urban or peri-urban centers. These areas not only contribute to protect wildlife but also promote human health and well-being.	1,4
	4) Establishment of biological corridors	Biological corridors are crucial to increase the connectivity between habitat patches used by brown howler monkeys and other terrestrial vertebrates.	1, 5
	5) Efficient protection of riparian edges	The density of howler monkeys in urban/disturbed areas often increases along the riparian edges. These forests contain food sources, shared microhabitats, and water, while they increase the connectivity between isolated habitat patches.	1, 4
	6) Installation of wildlife crossings	The construction and installation of aerial rope bridges (elaborated with PVC tubes and rope) in NIE hotspots.	1, 5-7

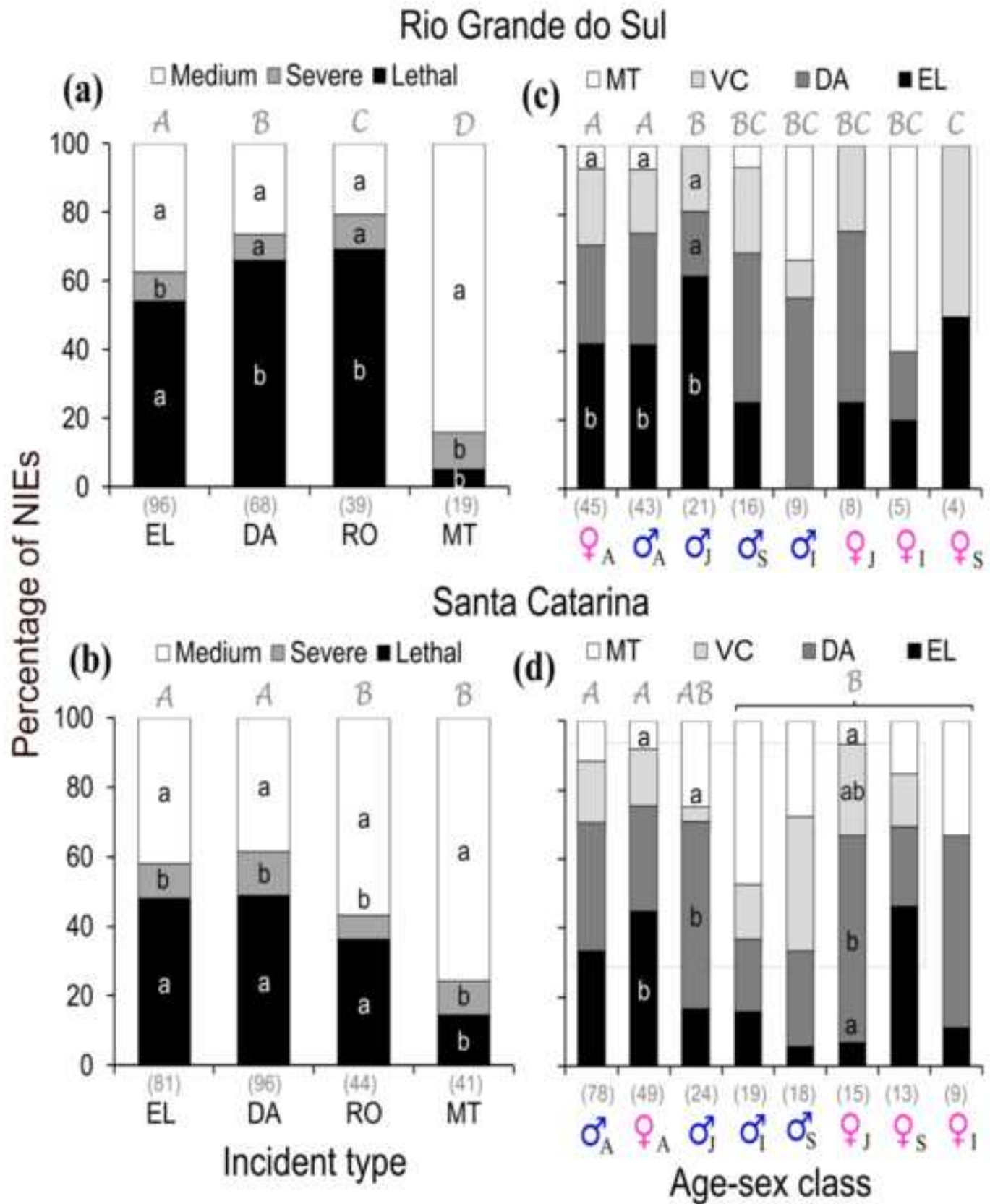
	7) Establishment and/or protection of natural canopy bridges	Natural bridges used frequently by primates and that are composed by the canopies of two or more large trees in the opposite sides of a road.	1, 4
	8) Creation of public policies to assist injured animals	Creation of municipal laws that enforce energy companies, road departments, and urbanization secretaries to cover the costs related to monkey rescuing, veterinarian assistance, and captive maintenance.	1-3
EL	9) Creation of buffer zones between the forest canopy and power lines	Buffer zones can be established over the trimming of tree branches that allow access to power lines, particularly in medium-voltage power lines.	1, 3, 5, 7
	10) Insulating of power lines	Insulation of low-tension power lines (and high-tension power lines, whenever possible) and installation of physical barriers in the cables to reduce the access of the individual to the cables.	1-3, 5, 7
DA	11) Sterilization of domestic and stray dogs	Sterilization campaigns of domestic and stray dogs inhabiting peri-urban matrices.	8, 9
	12) Prevention that dogs roam free	Installation of fences, dog-kennels, and other barriers in gardens to avoid that domestic dogs roam free and interact with primates and other wild vertebrates.	8, 9
	13) Relocation and euthanasia of stray dogs	When possible, part of these individuals should be captured, sterilized, and relocated to public and private dog-kennels. Lethal control of stray dogs when their population is high and the frequency of dog-wildlife conflicts justify it.	8, 9

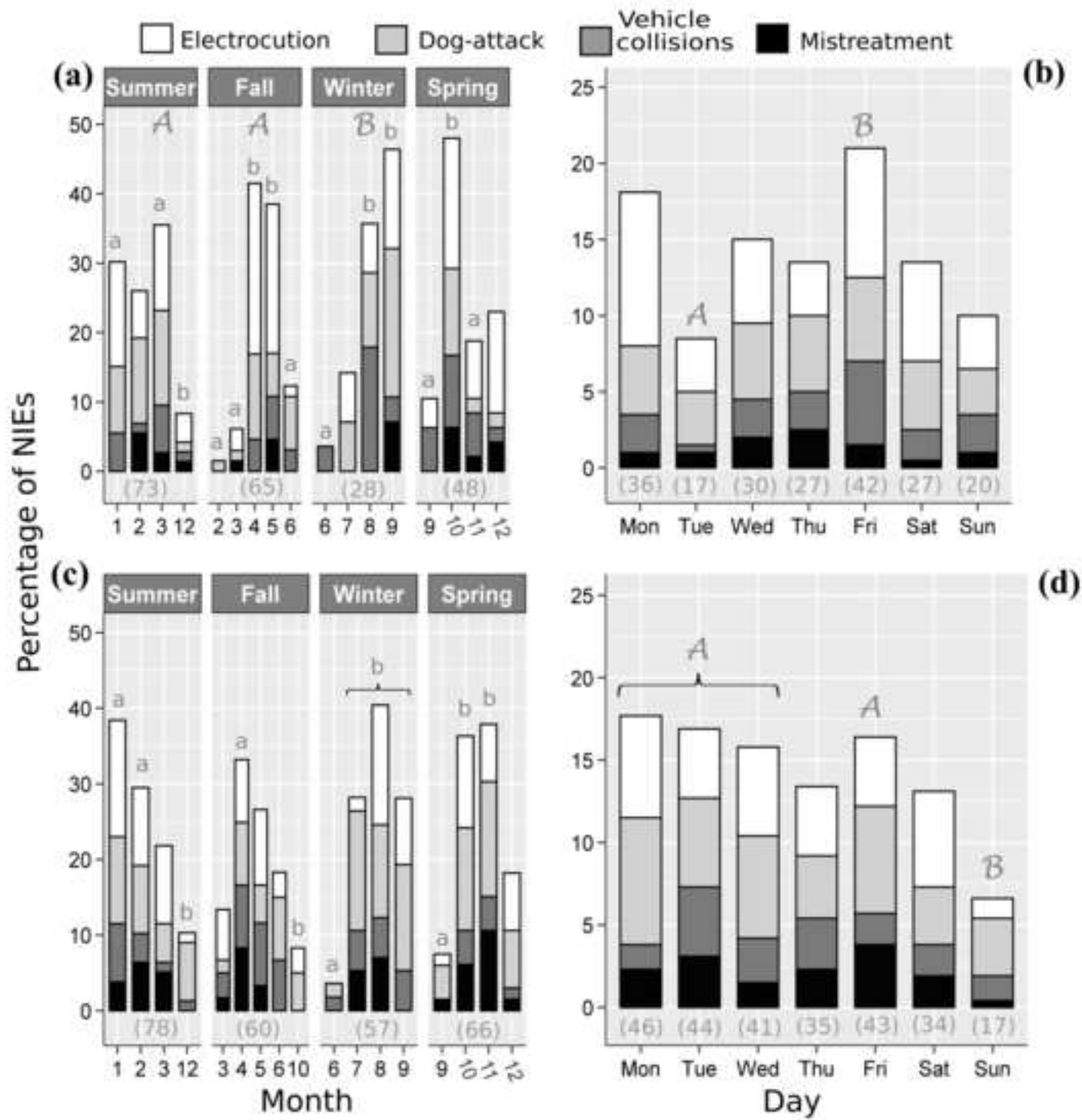
VC	14) Installation of speed reducers	Installation of speed bumps and posting of signs to persuade vehicle drivers to reduce the speed near locations with frequent crossing of brown howler monkeys and other terrestrial vertebrates.	10
MT	15) Efficient surveillance and penalty systems	The surveillance and quick penalty on environmental crimes associated with illegal captivity, traffic, and mistreatment.	3

^aElectrocution (EL), dog attack (DA), vehicle collision (VC), and mistreatment (MT).

^bReferences: 1- Jones-Román et al. (2021), 2-Gordo et al. (2013), 3- Buss (2012), 4-Trzyna (2014), 5-Lokschin et al. (2007), 6-Printes (1999), 7-Rodríguez et al. (2020), 8- Home et al. (2017), 9-Villatoro et al. (2019), 10-Teixeira et al. (2020)







Declaration of conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Credit authorship contribution statement

ÓMC: Investigation, Conceptualization, Data collection, Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing original draft, Manuscript revision. **JCSJ:** Data collection, Data curation, Manuscript revision. **GB:** Data collection, Data curation, Manuscript revision, **ZMBH:** Data curation, Funding acquisition, Manuscript revision. **MMAJ:** Data collection, Data curation, Methodology, Manuscript revision. **ELSA:** Data curation, Methodology, Manuscript revision. **JCG:** Data collection, Methodology. **ARP:** Data collection. **TM:** Data collection, Data curation. **JCBM:** Funding acquisition, Supervision, Methodology, Manuscript revision, English revision.