

Socio-economic and Cultural Aspects Associated with Handling Grasshopper Germplasm in Traditional Markets of Cuautla, Morelos, Mexico

Julieta Ramos-Elorduy*, Luis Antonio Carbajal Valdés and José Manuel Pino Moreno

**Instituto de Biología UNAM, Department of Zoology, Entomology Laboratory,
A.P. 70-153, 04510, México D.F.*

Telephone: (525) 56-22-91-49, Fax: (525) 55-50-01-64

E-mail: relorduy@ibunam2.ibiologia.unam.mx

KEYWORDS Edible Grasshoppers. Traditional Marketing. Cuautla. Mexico

ABSTRACT Edible insects are a renewable natural resource which provides valuable knowledge for ethnoentomological research. The present study investigates the selection of germplasm of edible grasshoppers by locals in Ladino markets of Cuautla, Morelos, and determined how collecting methods are implemented, as well as the decisions made about conservation and marketing. The researchers also investigated the role of both men and women play with this issue. They evaluated the diversity of insects that are traded inside and outside the markets, where were found three species of the order Orthoptera: *Sphenarium purpurascens* Charpentier 1842, *Sphenarium histrio* Gerstaecker 1873, and *Taeniopoda auricornis* Walker 1870, all harvested in Atlixco, state of Puebla. The researchers revealed the existence of a matriarchy, which plays a principal role in the collection, distribution and marketing of these insects.