



which may have been derived from 'edge effects' where members of separate groups interact or the presence of species that can exploit various habitat types.

### **WHAT IS THE SPIDER *MESABOLIVAR AURANTIACUS* (ARANEAE: PHOLCIDAE) DOING IN BUTTRESS NOTCHES?**

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*Mesabolivar aurantiacus* (Mello-Leitão) from Trinidad, West Indies are red, web-building spiders belonging to the family Pholcidae. It is often found in the semi-open space between two buttress roots (buttress notch) in forest habitats. The relationships that might exist between *M. aurantiacus* and its microhabitat – buttress notches were studied in the field (Arena Forest Reserve, Trinidad).

Buttress notches between a 30-75° angle, 30-100 cm deep and high were sampled during both the dry and wet seasons in 2003. The number of notches that were occupied and unoccupied by *M. aurantiacus* was counted. The web structure of this species was also described.

Chi-square tests conducted on the data revealed no significant difference in rate of occupancy among buttress notches of varying angle, depth and height in both seasons.

This did not mean that spatial dimensions of a buttress notch on a whole did not influence occupation by *M. aurantiacus* but, not the sizes examined. Thus buttress notches that provide adequate protection from predators and the elements, may influence occupation by *M. aurantiacus*. Another factor that may influence notch occupation by this species is the availability of prey in or near the notches. However, these aspects were not examined in this study.