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Review

# Diet Composition of the Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*): A Comprehensive Review

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## Simple Summary

The Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) is the largest terrestrial mammal in Mesoamerica. It plays an important ecological role in maintaining healthy tropical forests through seed dispersal in its faeces. However, knowledge about the composition of its diet remains scattered. This review revealed that the Baird's tapir consumes just over 500 plant taxa. Its diet consists mainly of fibre, leaves, fruits, bark, and flowers. The influence of seasonality on the tapir's diet is unclear due to the underestimation (fruits) and overestimation (fibre) of some components. We have identified limitations in the techniques used to determine diet components and study designs. Consequently, this review offers insights that could inform future studies, aiming to elucidate the direct and indirect effects of Baird's tapirs on vegetation inhabiting their habitat and comprehend their influence on ecosystem dynamics.

## Abstract

Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) plays an important ecological role in Mesoamerican forests as a browser and seed disperser, earning it the nickname of "gardener of the forest". However, knowledge of its diet composition remains scattered. We reviewed and analyzed the available literature of diet composition of Baird's tapir throughout its geographic distribution. We compiled evidence from 25 studies related to these topics. Baird's tapir was found to consume 511 plant taxa belonging to 407 genera and 122 families. Five types of dietary components have been identified: fibre (stems), leaf, fruit, bark and flowers. The influence of seasonality on the tapir's diet is unclear due to the underestimation of some components (fruit). We identified limitations in the techniques used to determine diet components and study designs. Future research should focus on develop novel techniques to improve the quantification of dietary components. Additionally, the direct and indirect effects of Baird's tapir's diet and plant consumption on ecosystem dynamics should be investigated to clearly understand the functional role of this species.

**Keywords:** herbivory; frugivory; large herbivores; seasonality; *Tapiridae*

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## 1. Introduction

Large wild herbivores play a critical role in determining the structure and function of ecosystems [1], although some of their direct and indirect trophic relationships with plants, small vertebrates, invertebrates and predators remain unknown [2,3]. To understand the effects of these organisms on plant diversity and vegetation dynamics, it is necessary to investigate their feeding habits and strategies, the components of their diet, the return of nutrients through excreta, and the mechanical impacts on soil and plants [2,4,5]. Feeding habits and diet of herbivores are particularly provide

information on habitat preference, plant selection, animal movements, health, evolution and trophic ecology [6–13].

Among the species of large herbivores shaping ecosystems are the four extant species of the Tapiridae family, mainly due to their ecological role as seed dispersers, which contributes to forest regeneration and maintenance, and landscape connectivity and diversity [14,15]. Tapirs are distributed across North and Central America (*Tapirus bairdii*), South America (*T. bairdii*, *Tapirus pinchaque* and *Tapirus terrestris*), and Southeast Asia (*Tapirus indicus*) [16]. They inhabit a wide variety of vegetation types, including dry to evergreen tropical forests, montane forests, shrub forests, grasslands, and xeric formations [16–18]. Consequently, their diet includes a huge diversity of species.

The Baird's tapir is known as the 'gardener' of Mesoamerican forests [19]. The species is distributed from southeastern Mexico to northwestern Colombia [20], where it inhabits areas that are global hotspots of biodiversity, home to around 24,000 plant species [21,22]. Baird's tapir home range varies between 1 and 24 km<sup>2</sup>, moving up to 3 km per day [23,24]. These movements enable them to use different types of vegetation with varying degrees of disturbance and interact with diverse species [25,26]. How Baird's tapir shapes its environment through its influence on vegetation and nutrient cycling is less clear, despite being one of the most studied species in this field. In particular, the available information is scattered, making it difficult to understand its role in the different ecosystems it inhabits.

This study contributes to the basic understanding of the functional role of Baird's tapir by reviewing the locations where research has been conducted, the plant species and parts consumed by the species, and the methods used to determine its diet and quantify its components. It also addresses the influence of seasonality on the tapir's diet. The results of this study will guide future research into techniques that improve the standardization of the identification and quantification of dietary components. This will provide the robust foundation necessary to understand the role of tapirs in shaping their environment.

## 2. Materials and Methods

We carried out a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the feeding habits and diet of *T. bairdii* using six search engines: Google Scholar, Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal (Redalyc project), Science Direct, Science Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Scopus and Web of Knowledge. We conducted the search both in English and Spanish. A systematic search was temporally delimited from 1978 to 2024, using the following combinations: "Tapir" + "Baird" + "Diet" + "Feeding Habits" + "Ecology" and in Spanish "dieta" + "tapir" + "Baird" + "hábitos alimenticios" + "ecología". We included contributions of scientific journals (articles and scientific notes), newsletters of the IUCN Tapir Specialists Group, abstracts from conferences and workshops, reports, and theses. Studies conducted with the same data were considered as one; they included Tobler [27] and Tobler et al. [28], as well as Foerster [29] and Foerster and Vaughan [30]. Contributions without original data were excluded.

We built a database on studies on the diet of Baird's tapir in Excel with the following information: publication details (title, authors, year of publication and year of sampling), country, region, sampling location coordinates, season, sample size, technique used to identify plant species consumed, technique used to quantify diet components, and percentage of diet components. Separately, we built another database in Excel containing the family, genus and species of plants consumed by the Baird's tapir, the location and country where the study was carried out, as well as publication details such as authors and year of publication.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Locations

We found 25 studies related to the diet composition of *T. bairdii* from seven countries (Figure 1). Mexico and Costa Rica are the countries with the highest number of studies (12 and 7, respectively), followed by Colombia and Panama (2 each), and the other countries (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) with one study each (Supplementary Table S1 [27–51]).



**Figure 1.** Map showing the geographic distribution of *Tapirus bairdii*. The black dots represent the sites where studies about feeding habits and diet composition have been carried out.

#### 3.2. Techniques Used to Identify Plant Species Consumed

The plant species consumed by Baird's tapirs were identified by browsing signs, faecal analysis, direct observations (by observers or camera traps), and interviews with local people. The most used techniques in the studies were the combination of browsing signs and faecal analysis (in 10 of the 25 studies; Table 1 [27–29,32–35,37–45,47,48,50–52]).

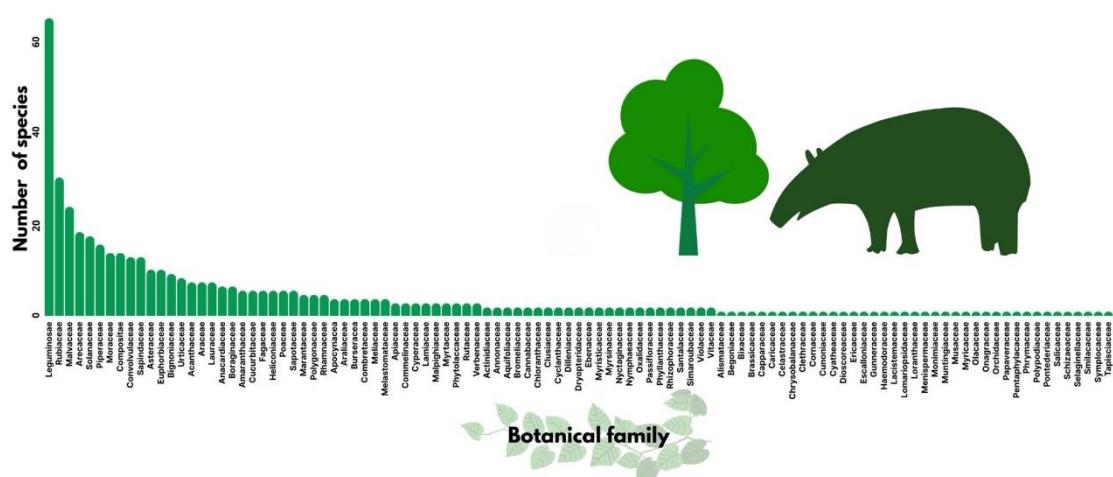
**Table 1.** Studies with reports on plants consumed by Baird's tapir in its geographic range. B= browse, F= faeces, B/F= browse and faeces, and O= others.

Country	Site	Total Families	Total Genera	Identification technique				Reference
				B	F	B/F	O	
Colombia	Katíos Natural National Park	21	24	-	-	X	-	[32]
Colombia	Katíos Natural National Park	16	22	-	-	X	-	[33]
Costa Rica	Santa Rosa National Park	35	57	X	-	-	-	[34]
Costa Rica	Parque Nacional Corcovado	36	65	-	-	X	-	[35]
Costa Rica	Parque Nacional Corcovado	3	3	X	-	-	-	[29]
Costa Rica	Cordillera de Talamanca	24	24	-	-	X	-	[27,28]
Guatemala	Parque Nacional Laguna Lachuá	27	28	-	-	X	-	[37]

Honduras	Parque Nacional Sierra de Agalta	25	27	-	-	X	-	[38]
Mexico	La Sepultura	33	38	-	-	X	-	[39]
Mexico	La Sepultura	42	58	-	X	-	-	[40]
Mexico	El Triunfo	27	35	-	-	X	-	[41]
Mexico	Calakmul	8	5	-	X	-	-	[42]
Mexico	Montes Azules	20	29	-	-	X	-	[43]
Mexico	La Fortaleza	10	9	-	X	-	-	[44]
Mexico	Bala'an Ka'ax	15	15	X	-	-	X	[45]
Mexico	Dos Luchas	3	3	X	-	-	-	[47]
Mexico	Calakmul	36	62	-	-	X	X	[48]
Nicaragua	Autonomous Region of the North	16	21	-	-	-	X	[50]
Panama	Barro Colorado	44	81	X	-	-	X	[51]
Panama	Barro Colorado	7	8	-	X	-	-	[52]

### 3.3. Plant Species Consumed

We found 511 species of plants consumed by *T. bairdii*, belonging to 407 genera and 122 families (Supplementary Table S2). The four most frequently documented plant species were *Brosimum alicastrum* and *Spondias mombin* (8 studies), *Manilkara zapota* (7) and *Acalypha diversifolia* (6). Genera with the highest number of species were Piper (17), Psychotria (13), Solanum (10) and Ipomoea (8). Families with the highest number of species were Leguminosae (71 species), Rubiaceae (33), Malvaceae (26), Arecaceae (20) and Solenaceae (19) (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Number of species per family of plants consumed by *Tapirus bairdii*.

### 3.4. Techniques Used to Quantify Diet Components

Three methods have been utilized to quantify the components of the Baird's tapir's diet, two based on faecal matter, and one on direct observation of foraging activity. The faecal-based methods used are frequency by occurrence (9 studies) and weight of each component (7), although five studies have combined both methods. Direct observation of foraging activity has only been used in one study. For this study, observers recorded the parts of plants eaten by the tapir (leaves, fruits, bark, stems or flowers) at five-minute intervals for periods ranging from two to 11 hours, over almost one year [30].

### 3.5. Diet Composition

Five dietary components have been recorded: bark, fibre or stems, flowers, fruits and leaves, of which the most frequently mentioned are fibre or stems, leaves and fruits (13 studies), while bark and flowers are mentioned less frequently (2 and 1 studies, respectively).

Studies were carried out in six types of vegetation (Tables 2 [27,28,32,35,38–41,43,44] and 3 [24,32,35,37,39,41,44]), over periods of between 4 and 24 months (Tables 2 [27,28,32,35,38–41,43,44] and 3 [24,32,35,37,39,41,44]). As a result, the dietary components varied widely among studies without regard for the method used to quantify them. In studies based on the frequency per occurrence method, fibre represented 7.6–68.0%, leaves 18.6–65.4% and fruits 0.3–27.2% (Table 2 [27,28,32,35,38–41,43,44]). Using the component weighing method, the percentages were: fibre 11.9–43.6%, leaves 41.1–79.7%, fruits 2.2–47% and bark 2% (Table 3 [24,32,35,37,39,41,44]). The percentages from direct observations were, in decreasing order importance, leaves 67%, fruits 19%, fibre 12%, bark 2% and flowers 0.1% [30]. Note that the study by Mejía-Correa et al [33] was omitted because the researchers summed the percentages of fibre and leaves (a total of 83%), making it impossible to determine the percentage of each component.

**Table 2.** Studies quantifying the components of the Baird's tapir's diet using the frequency per occurrence technique. The studies are listed in increasing order of samples analyzed. BLF = Broadleaf Forest; MCF = Mountain cloud forest; SDTF = Semideciduous tropical forest; TRF = Tropical rainforest.

Reference	Sample Size (n)	Vegetation type	Study duration (month)	Diet Components (%)					
				Fibre		Leaf		Fruit	
				Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
[27,28]	13	MCF	5 months	51.4	-	48.3	-	0.3	-
[38]	26	BLF	8 months	66.13	-	18.6	-	2.9	-
[32]	33	TRF	4 months	7.6	5.42	65.2	20.1	27.2	20.9
[44]	50	TRF	8 months	49.4	9.4	49.5	9.1	1.1	5.01
[39]	62	SDTF	16 months	44.1	11.7	48.8	14.1	7.1	10.8
[41]	90	MCF	10 months	50.6	15.9	45.5	14.8	3.9	10.1
[35]	136	TRF	9 months	25.2	-	65.4	-	9.4	-
[43]	142	TRF	11 months	47.0	10.0	51.0	11.0	2.0	5.0
[40]	278	MCF	11 months	68.0	4.0	30.4	5.0	1.6	1.1

**Table 3.** Diet component percentages in studies analyzing the Baird's tapir's diet using the weighing technique. Studies are organized in increasing order of sample size. Asterisks indicate studies that also used the frequency per occurrence technique. MCF = Mountain cloud forest; SDTF = Semideciduous tropical forest; TRF = Tropical rainforest.

Reference	Sample size (n)	Vegetation type	Study duration month	Diet Components (%)							
				Fibre		Leaf		Fruit		Bark	
				Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
[32]*	33	TRF	4	11.9	9.6	41.1	17.3	47.0	21.3	-	-
[37]	37	TRF	12	28.0	-	67.0	-	3.0	-	2.0	-
[24]	47	SDTF	24	17.5	0.7	74.0	11.3	9.8	4.6	-	-
[44]*	50	TRF	8	38.0	0.3	57.2	0.3	2.6	0.3	-	-
[39]*	62	SDTF	16	18.1	7.5	79.7	8.6	2.2	5.2	-	-
[41]*	90	MCF	10	38.1	16.7	57.6	15.2	4.3	12.4	-	-
[35]*	136	TRF	9	15.4	-	76.0	-	8.6	-	-	-

### 3.5. Influence of Seasonality on Diet

Five studies compared the dietary composition between dry and rainy seasons by analysing the frequency of occurrence in faeces (Table 4 [35,39,41,43,44]). All the studies reported that leaves are more frequent during the rainy season, while four reported more fibre in the dry season and three

reported more fruits in the dry season. Six studies compared diet seasonal variation with the component weighting method (Table 5 [24,35,37,39,41,44]). In four studies, leaves represented a higher percentage during the rainy season, while in three studies, fibre represented a higher percentage in the rainy season, whereas the three others found the contrary, and four reported a higher percentage of fruit in the dry season.

The only study using direct observation to investigate tapir feeding revealed that, during the dry season, the percentage of leaves (68.1%), fibre (18.8%) and flowers (0.3%) in the diet was higher than during the rainy season (leaves 66.9%; fibre 7.9%; flowers 0%) [30]. However, the percentage of fruit and bark was higher in the rainy season than in the dry season (fruit 22.3% and 12.4%, bark 3% and 0.4%, respectively).

**Table 4.** Studies analyzing the influence of seasonality (dry and rainy seasons) on the components of Baird's tapir diet using the frequency per occurrence technique. D = dry season; R = rainy season. .

Reference	Sample Size (n)	Dry season n (%)	Rainy season n (%)	Diet components %					
				Fibre		Leaf		Fruit	
				D	R	D	R	D	R
[44]	50	15 (30.0)	35 (70.0)	49.91	48.2	48.5	51.7	1.5	0.1
[39]	62	20 (32.2)	42 (67.8)	44.5	43.8	47.3	50.1	8.1	6.2
[41]	90	50 (55.6)	40 (44.4)	40.3	35.2	42.3	54.4	3.2	4.8
[35]	136	92 (67.6)	44 (32.4)	23.2	29.5	64.8	66.7	12.0	3.8
[43]	142	111 (78.0)	31 (22.0)	50.0	38.0	48.0	60.0	2.0	2.0

**Table 5.** Studies analyzing the influence of seasonality (dry and rainy seasons) on the components of Baird's tapir diet using the weighing technique. D = dry season; R = rainy season.

Reference	Sample size (n)	Dry season n (%)	Rainy season n (%)	Diet components %					
				Fibre		Leaf		Fruit	
				D	R	D	R	D	R
[37]	37	24 (64.9)	13 (35.1)	21.5	38.6	72.9	55.3	4.6	2.2
[24]	47	30 (64.0)	17 (36.0)	18.0	17.0	66.0	82	16.0	0.3
[44]	50	15 (30.0)	35 (70.0)	38.2	40.4	56.6	58.8	3.4	0.8
[39]	62	20 (32.2)	42 (67.8)	19.5	16.9	78.9	80.5	1.7	2.6
[41]	90	50 (55.6)	40 (44.4)	40.3	35.2	55.7	60.0	3.9	4.8
[35]	136	92 (67.6)	44 (32.4)	12.8	21.2	76.9	73.9	10.3	4.9

## 4. Discussion

This review aimed at compiling the available information on Baird's tapir diet, including study locations, the plants species and parts consumed, the methods used to determine its diet and quantify its components, and the influence of seasonality on its diet. The results revealed geographic gaps within Baird's tapir distribution range where its diet has not been studied. This review also provides a current list of plant species forming part of the tapir's diet provided which is the most extensive to date, surpassing the previous estimate of 100 to 150 species by Foerster and Vaughan [30]. Our review also indicates that the remnants detected in Baird's tapir faeces could be misleading indicators of dietary composition if they are assumed to reflect the quantity of each dietary component. Seasonality appears to have little influence on the tapir's diet, potentially because the techniques employed do not accurately quantify its components, with some highly digestible components such as fruits being likely underestimated. Our results underscore the need to implement more efficient techniques to understand basic but very important aspects of the feeding ecology of the Baird's tapir.

#### 4.1. Techniques Used to Identify Plant Species Consumed

The analysis of faecal residues and the observation of browsing signs and direct foraging activity remain proven effective techniques, but future research could incorporate molecular analyses to identify plant tissue DNA directly from faeces, as well as interviews with local experts, camera trap monitoring and stable isotope analyses [53–55]. For instance, combined genetic and ethnobotanical approaches in Hibert et al. [54]’s study revealed new species, genera and families in the lowland tapir’s diet in French Guiana.

Traditional techniques such as the microhistological analysis of faecal remains and the identification of browsing signs remain widely used to this day. These two techniques are low-cost. In the first case, students typically carry out the entire procedure, which keeps the labour costs quite low. However, one disadvantage is that a collection of all the plants found in the tapir’s habitat is necessary for comparison with the plants found in the faeces. In the case of browsing signs, labour costs are also low. However, it requires extensive experience in tracking these animals, a skill that researchers and students might not possess. An experienced local guide is therefore an asset, but it raises the costs.

The use of DNA metabarcoding to identify the plant species consumed by tapirs has recently proved to be a very useful technique. It has been possible to identify a high percentage of plants at the family level (95.1%) and genus level (74.4%) by studying highly degraded plant fragments found in faeces. While this technique is regarded as cost-effective [56], it remains costly in certain regions and for academic groups with limited financial resources [57]. This may be the reason why only one study using DNA metabarcoding has been conducted on tapirs to date, in a rich country [2]. Furthermore, it should be noted that taxonomic resolution is a significant limitation of this approach, which often provides results at the family or genus level only when sequences are similar or because the reference databases are not complete [2].

#### 4.2. Techniques Used to Quantify Diet Components

The analysis of faeces has been used to assess the dietary composition and diversity, dietary patterns, and feeding behaviour of a wide variety of wild species (See [58]). Several studies have sought to quantify the components of the Baird’s tapir diet by analysing faecal remnants [32,35,39]. However, the technique, in which the components (fruits, bark, leaves) are separated, oven-dried, and quantified in relation to the initial sample volume [59,60], does not appear to be suitable for achieving this objective. Techniques using post-ingestive samples are subject to several factors that affect the accuracy and precision of diet estimation [61]. For example, different digestion rates and the greater fragmentation and decomposition of softer components (e.g., pulp and young leaves) compared to harder components (e.g., stems and seeds) will change the estimation of the dietary components [61]. Only one study has used direct observation of feeding animals to determine the dietary components of Baird’s tapirs [30]. This technique has been widely used to observe the food preferences of wild animals [62], although it has been in disuse over the years [61]. It is notably difficult to employ in areas where there is limited visual range, such as in forests, and it is time consuming. Although this technique allows gathering quantitative data and has limitations in the accuracy of quantifying and separating certain components, such as fibre. The fibre values reported in this study are among the lowest when compared to studies analysing faecal remains, while the values for leaves and fruits are among the highest. We believe that these values may be closest to the actual composition of the Baird’s tapir’s diet, although further studies with larger samples are needed to confirm this. The fibre values reported in this study are among the lowest when compared to studies analysing faecal remains, while the values for leaves and fruits are among the highest. We believe that these values may be closest to the actual composition of the Baird’s tapir’s diet, although further studies with larger samples are needed to confirm this.

#### 4.3. Plant Species Consumed

The current list of plant species forming part of the Baird's tapir diet provided by this review surpasses the estimations of 100-150 species by Foerster and Vaughan [30], and those of both the lowland tapir (460 species; [63]), and the Malayan tapir (380 species; [64]). With 511 identified plant species, the Baird's tapir diet appears the most diverse among its genus, even though it has not been studied in some parts of its geographic range. This may be due to the wide variety of habitats of vegetation types in which it lives, including marshes, mangroves, swamps, tropical rainforests, riparian forests, monsoon deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests, and montane cloud forests [65,66]. Consequently, the potential influence of Baird's tapir on the ecosystems and landscapes it inhabits could be greater than previously thought, given the large number of plants with which it interacts.

#### 4.4. Diet Composition

The natural diet of tapirs has been described as predominantly resulting from browsing, with a low percentage of fruit [67]. The results from this review support this view, with most studies (except [32]) reporting percentages of fruits that do not exceed 10%, the balance being fibre and leaves. We should be aware that the quantity of fruits consumed by tapirs has been estimated by counting or weighing the seeds, skin remnants and pulp found in their faeces, leading to biased estimations, as explained earlier.

#### 4.5. Influence of Seasonality on Diet

In order to analyze the influence of seasonality on diet, it is best to consider the type of technique used separately. Studies such as those by Naranjo [35], Naranjo and Cruz-Aldán [39], and Reyes-Alcaraz [44] demonstrate significant discrepancies in values obtained for the same dietary component when the two techniques are employed.

Fibre may be present in greater quantities or more frequently in Baird's tapir diet during the dry season because the quality of forage is lowest at this time of year [68]. This is because plants invest more in structural carbohydrates during the dry season, resulting in a higher carbon:nitrogen ratio [69]. However, the production of fruits of many tropical trees coincides with the dry season [70], meaning that the consumption of some fruits, which are rich in dry matter [67], could also increase.

All studies that used the frequency per occurrence technique showed that the percentage of leaves is higher during the rainy season, as did two-thirds of the studies that used the weighing technique. Only in two studies was the percentage of leaves higher in the dry season [35,37]. Interestingly, in Naranjo's [35] study in Costa Rica, the results differ according to the technique used, as higher values are reported with the weighing technique than with the frequency per occurrence technique.

Lower leaf consumption during the dry season could be related to deciduousness, which occurs in many tropical forest trees [71]. This phenomenon is an adaptation to water stress, which induces the fall of leaves and limits the growth of new shoots and leaves [71]. It is therefore expected that Baird's tapirs living in drier areas will consume fewer leaves compared to tapirs living in more humid areas, or that the species consumed in a given area will differ more or less between seasons according to their deciduousness. Moreover, certain species may possess more fibrous leaves during the dry season [72], which would consequently influence the research results.

Quantifying fruits is the most challenging aspect of the process, regardless of the method used. Most studies report a higher percentage of fruit in the diet during the dry season with both the frequency per occurrence and weighing methods. Restrepo and Betancourt [32] highlights that this increase in the percentage of fruit may be attributable to the samples being collected during the dry season, when fruit is more abundant. This increased fruit consumption during the dry season has also been documented in the lowland tapir in the Peruvian Amazon [73] and in French Guiana [74]. However, there are also contradictory results, such as those of Naranjo [35] and Foerster and

Vaughan [30], both conducted in the same study area (Corcovado National Park in Costa Rica). Naranjo [35] obtained higher values for fruit in the dry season by analysing faeces, while Foerster and Vaughan [30] obtained higher values in the rainy season through direct observation. This could be caused by the underestimation of the amount of fruit consumed in the former study, as some fruits (especially those with high water content) are almost completely digested and may be undetectable in faeces.

## 5. Conclusions

Only a few studies have been conducted on the diet of the Baird's tapir in the last 10 years, even though there are still many regions of Mesoamerica where virtually nothing is known about these topics. Moreover, information on the sites where studies have been conducted in the past should be updated, as many of these sites may have been altered due to human activity or climate change. The results of studies analyzing faeces should be treated with caution, as these quantify the least digestible components rather than all the components in the diet. Studies on diet should be conducted over much longer periods to account for fluctuating plant phenology caused by natural climate cycles (e.g. El Niño). Such long study periods require cheap, automated techniques, such as camera trap monitoring for plant phenology. In addition to molecular techniques (DNA metabarcoding) and stable isotopes, which facilitate the analysis of Baird's tapirs' diets from a different perspective. We believe that such studies are necessary to understand how tapirs utilize available resources, respond to environmental changes, move in their habitat, and affect forest dynamics.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following supporting information can be downloaded at the website of this paper posted on Preprints.org. Table S1. Studies with reports on plants consumed by Baird's tapir in its geographic range; Table S2. List of plants consumed by Baird's tapirs (*Tapirus bairdii*) in its geographic range, study sites, and references. Based on 25 studies published between 1978 and 2024. BZ=Belize, COL=Colombia, CR= Costa Rica, GT=Guatemala, HND= Honduras, MX=Mexico, NI=Nicaragua and PAN=Panama.

**Author Contributions:** For research articles with several authors, a short paragraph specifying their individual contributions must be provided. The following statements should be used "Conceptualization, J.P-F.; methodology, J.P-F., S.C. and D.G-S.; formal analysis, J.P-F.; investigation, J.P-F.; data curation, J.P-F.; writing—original draft preparation, J.P-F., S.C. and D.G-S.; writing—review and editing, J.P-F., S.C. and D.G-S.; supervision, J.P-F. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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