

“Ibirapitanga, lignvm rvbrvm”*

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The journal *Paubrasilia* was created when the Southern Bahia Atlantic Forest Botanical Garden (JB FLORAS) was first established through an initiative of the Federal University of Southern Bahia (UFSB), with the purpose of conserving the native flora of southern Bahia State, Brazil, and popularizing knowledge about the diversity of the regional vegetation and its link with various areas of study.

Paubrasilia proposes to contribute to the diffusion of botanical knowledge through ethical editorial principles. We hope to publicize manuscripts resulting from basic and applied scientific research, as well as experiences with collections, conservation, dissemination of scientific information in the field of botany, environmental education focusing on the plant world, teaching botany, plant biogeography, systematics, ecology, reproductive biology, physiology, biotechnology, structural botany, palynology, ethno-botany, and economic botany.

The name chosen for this new journal is an allusion to the genus of brazilwood (“pau-brasil”) the national plant of Brazil. The genus *Paubrasilia* was proposed by Edeline Gagnon and collaborators in 2016 in an article published in the journal *PhytoKeys****, with the genus having been considered up until that time endemic to the eastern region of that country in the states of Pernambuco, Bahia, Espírito Santo, and Rio de Janeiro. The only species described for that genus is *Paubrasilia echinata* (Lam.) E. Gagnon, H. C. Lima & G. P. Lewis, known as brazilwood (“pau-brasil” or “ibirapitanga”, from the tupi Amerindian language *ibi’rá* [= wood, tree] + *pi’tãga* [= red], as it was called by the Tupinambás Nation).

The first number of *Paubrasilia* publicizes the complete versions of three works presented during the 38th Regional Meeting of Botanists (ERBOT) from the states of Minas Gerais, Bahia, and Espírito Santo – an event promoted by the Botanical Society of Brazil held at the Sósígenes Costa campus of UFSB, in Porto Seguro (BA) from May 20 - 23, 2018. During that meeting the FLORAS Botanical Garden was officially established.

The first article of that first volume number is entitled “*The botany, so close and so far: the planning in a distance learning course on Biological Sciences*” by RTM Ribeiro and collaborators, which presents a comparative analysis of teaching plans for disciplines in the area of botany in an online course in licentiatehip offered by the State University of Ceará/Open University of Brazil.

The second manuscript “*Stingless bees (Apidae: Meliponini) in an agro-forest system in southern Bahia: nest mapping and perceptions of the workers*” in which OMP Duarte and FS Santos inventoried stingless bee nests in an agro-forest system in southern Bahia State to generate information that could stimulate the adoption of practices favorable to the maintenance of those pollinators.

The first number of *Paubrasilia* also includes a text by JS Novais and collaborators that presented a report of their experiences, entitled “*palinoFLORAS: a palynological collection associated with a botanical garden in southern Bahia State, Brazil*”. The text describes the process of creating and structuring the palinoFLORAS, the Palynological Collection of the Southern Bahia Atlantic Forest, associated with the FLORAS Botanical Garden and designed to contribute to advancing palynological studies in southern Bahia.

We hope that the *Paubrasilia* journal will grow and bloom from its start in southern Bahia, and can count on the collaboration of the botanical community and individuals interested in *scientia amabilis* – to help create an awareness of the flora of Bahia (as well as other regions) among an increasingly diverse, critical, and interested public.

* “*Ibirapitanga, red wood*”, in Pisonis G. De Indiae utriusque re naturali et medica. Amstelædami: Apud Ludovicum et Danielelem Elzevirios; 1658, p. 164. [accessed in 17 Aug 2018]. Available on: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/39776#page/1/mode/1up>

** Gagnon E, Bruneau A, Hughes CE, Queiroz LP, Lewis GP. A new generic system for the pantropical *Caesalpinia* group (Leguminosae). *PhytoKeys* 2016;71:1-160.

