

Ribeirão Preto, July 5th, 2017.

To

Dr. Natalie Olifiers

Editor, Oecologia Australis

Dear Editor,

We hereby submit our manuscript entitled “**HOW TO BE A GOOD NON-POLLINATING FIG WASP: GALLING WASPS (*Idarnes* group *flavicollis*) DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE FLORAL RECEPTIVE PERIOD OF NEOTROPICAL FIG TREES**”, written by P. C. A. Silva and R. A. S. Pereira, to be considered for publication in the special volume “Ecology and Evolution of Interactions” of Oecologia Australis.

The association between fig trees and their pollinating fig wasps is one of the most-studied of plant-insect mutualisms, but little is known about the other non-pollinating-fig-associated wasps. In this manuscript we experimentally assess the effect of galling species (*Idarnes* group *flavicollis*) on the period when figs are attractive to their pollinators and stigma flowers are receptive for pollination.

We hope that you will find this submission of an appropriate standard and of sufficient general interest for publication in Oecologia Australis.

We declare that (1) all authors agree with the publication, (2) the manuscript is not already published elsewhere and, (3) the manuscript it is not simultaneously submitted in other journal.

We thank you in advance for this kind consideration and look forward to the review of our paper at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. S. Pereira', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rodrigo A. S. Pereira

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pâmela Costa Adorno da Silva', with a cursive script.

Pâmela C. A. Silva

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