Dear Dra. Ana Cláudia Delciellos (Editor-in-Chief),

We are sending you the original article entitled “**Mapping threats to the orchid populations in an Environmental Protection Area in Bahia, Northeast Brazil**” to be considered for publication in Oecologia Australis. The submission is for the special issue "Survey, ecology and species management in Protected Areas".

We presented an updated list of Orchidaceae in an environmentally protected restinga fragment located in an urban area in the municipality of Salvador, the third most populous municipality in Brazil. We carried out intensive fieldwork during October 2014 and February 2018, and analyzed several collections from Brazilian herbaria. We found 15 genera and 19 species, including highly ornamental orchids. We recognized six species as new occurrences for the area. On the other hand, two species may be extinct locally; they were last collected last century and recent attempts to find them in the area were unsuccessful. In addition, five species deserve immediate conservation actions in order to avoid local extinctions since they form small populations (less than 50 individuals) and/or are restricted to up to few locations. Deforestation, occasional changes in habitats, including illegal collection of plants, urban growth of the neighborhoods, and the possible expansion of ​​ the international airport in Salvador may drastically reduce the population sizes of the orchids present. Conservation efforts must include the management of species, environmental educational actions and the permanent control and surveillance of the area.

I assure that all authors have seen and approved the submitted manuscript and that the manuscript has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere.

I recommend the following researchers to review this manuscript:

1. Msc. Maria Lenise Silva Guedes (UFBA) – mlguedes2003@yahoo.com.br
2. Dr. Edley Max Pessoa da Silva (UFPE) – edlley\_max@hotmail.com
3. Dr. Claudio Nicoletti de Fraga (JBRJ) – cnfraga@gmail.com
4. Dr. Leonardo Ramos Seixas Guimarães (IBt-SP) - leo.rsguimaraes@hotmail.com
5. Dr. Domingos Benício Oliveira Silva Cardoso (UFBA) – cardosobot@gmail.com

Please contact us in case of any questions.

Sincerely Yours,

Felipe Fajardo Villela Antolin Barberena

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Universidade Federal Rural da Amazônia, Estrada do Pau Amarelo s/n - Campus de Capitão Poço, Vila Nova, 68.650-000, Capitão Poço, Pará, Brazil

Phone: +55 (21) 98302-4299

E-mail for correspondence: felipe.fajardo@ufra.edu.br