

Rio Claro (SP), August 7th 2018.

Cover Letter

Dears Editor Dra Ana Claudia Delciellos

and Dr(s) Arnildo Pott and Camila Aoki,

We are submitting our original research **“Inventory of aquatic macrophyte species in coastal rivers of the São Paulo state, Brazil”** to *Oecologia Australis*, whose authors are Laís Samira Correia Nunes, Cristiane Akemi Umetsu, Maria Estefânia Fernandes Rodrigues, Vali Joana Pott & Antonio Fernando Monteiro Camargo, for contribution to the special issue **“ECOLOGY OF WETLANDS”**.

We sent you the manuscript abstract on May 4th and the submission proposal was accepted by the journal on May 5th.

We state that this manuscript has not been submitted for publication elsewhere. A manuscript related to this one was submitted for consideration in the journal “Frontiers in Plant Science” – special research topic “Diversity and Eco-Physiological Responses of Aquatic Plants”. It addresses if the macrophyte species and life form richness and composition is related to the rivers heterogeneity.

Our study area is the coastal region of the São Paulo state in Brazil. This region is marked by the presence of a mountain range with altitudes up to 1,000 meters. Due to the difference of proximity of the mountain range to the coastline, the coastal plains have different extents. We carried on an inventory in order to verify if there are differences in species and life form richness and distribution of aquatic macrophytes in these rivers. Macrophytes were inventoried at 100 sampling sites in eight rivers (between 9 and 19 sites per river) in March 2017. General descriptions on taxonomic aspects, life forms and frequency of occurrence of the macrophytes were explored. We recorded 45 taxa of aquatic macrophytes belonging to 24 families. Three species are exotic, but they presented low frequencies of occurrence. The macrophytes were classified as emergent, amphibious, free-floating, rooted floating, free submerged and

rooted submerged. The vast majority of the taxa have emergent life form. Floating and submerged macrophytes were found in only two rivers. The most frequent species were *Crinum americanum*, *Spartina alterniflora* and *Schoenoplectus californicus*. Most taxa are rare in terms of occurrence. Only 4 species occurred along a large part of the north-south stretch sampled, and these, possibly, have a wide tolerance to the variation in resource requirements and salt. The north-south gradient of the taxa occurrence may be related to the diversity of environmental characteristics due to differences in the rivers and coastal plains extent.

The authors are available for possible elucidation. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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