May 8th, 2019

Dr. Ana Claudia Delciellos

Editor-in-Chief, ***Oecologia Australis***

Dear Dr. Delciellos,

We are glad to submit our manuscript entitled **“Distribution and conservation status of the threatened palm *Euterpe edulis* Mart. in the Atlantic Forest”***,* by Aline Cavalcante de Souza and Jayme Augusto Prevedello, for consideration for publication in *Oecologia Australis* as a Short Communication.

We combined species distribution modelling with forest cover analyses to quantify the current distribution of the threatened palm *Euterpe edulis*, an ecologically and economically important species of the Atlantic Forest. Our analyses reveal that a large portion (66%) of the Atlantic Forest is climatically suitable for the species; however, extensive deforestation reduced 76% of this climatically suitable area. Therefore, the current status of *E. edulis* is critical, with only ca. 15% of the total area of the biome retaining forest remnants that are climatically suitable for its occurrence. Our study provides an updated assessment of the distribution and conservation status of *E. edulis*, and also indicates which areas should receive priority for conservation and restoration efforts targeted at this important species.

This manuscript has not been published or accepted for publication, nor is it under consideration for publication elsewhere, either in whole or substantial part. All authors agree on the content and were properly named on this submission.

We suggest as potential referees the following researchers:

1 – Dr. Marcelo M. Weber, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, mweber.marcelo@gmail.com - expert in species distribution modelling

2 – Dr. Mauricio A. Gomes, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, mweber.marcelo@gmail.com - expert in landscape ecology

5 – Dr. Gisele Winck - Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine - gwinck@gmail.com - expert in species distribution modelling

4 – Dr. Leandro Macedo Reis – Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, macedolreis@gmail.com – expert in spatial analysis

5 – Dr. Marcos Figueiredo – Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, mslfigueiredo@gmail.com – expert in spatial analysis

We hope that this manuscript can be considered for publication in *Oecologia Australis*. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aline C. Souza