Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the manuscript "Does the size of the trees determine the richness and distribution of vascular epiphytes in Amazonian floodplain forests?" This manuscript is being submitted for the special issue of the PELD.

Vascular epiphytes are an important part of the forest canopy and may act as environmental bioindicators and in nutrient cycling, functioning also as habitat and resource for canopy animals, therefore increasing local diversity of species. Notwithstanding its importance the knowledge about the composition and distribution of epiphytes in floodplains forests is still unknown. So, this group of plants is largely neglected in management plans that take into consideration mainly communities of trees.

The results of our study will help in filling the gap of incipient knowledge concerning the vascular epiphytes in the Amazon. Furthermore, we directed our efforts to understand the effect of tree assemblage on the occurrence of VE and in order to elucidate ecological patterns of beta diversity of this group of plant in black-water and white-waters floodplain forests. The gathered information contributes also to the management and conservation being one additional tool that alerts the population and environmental agencies for not destroying the floodplains forests of the Amazon.

This work is the first to address the relationship of epiphytes to tree diameter in for the ecosystem of wetlands of Central Amazon and seeks to make this relationship not only in space but also in time. We think Oecologia Australis is a good forum for discussion on this topic, since some important papers related to ecology of plants in tropical forests were published there. Please, feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Additionally, I confirm that all authors have seen and approved the submitted manuscript. Also, I confirm that the manuscript has not been published and not been submitted simultaneously in other journals.

Sincerely yours,

Adriano Costa Quaresma

Suggestions of referees

1. Luiz Menini Neto – Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora – Email: menini.neto@gmail.com
2. Rodrigo de Andrade Kersten - Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Escola de Ciências da Vida – ECV – Email: epifita@outlook.com; holoepifita@gmail.com
3. Charles Eugene Zartman – Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia-INPA – Email: chaszartman@gmail.com; charles.zartman@inpa.gov.br
4. Flávio Amorim Obumüller – Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro – Email: flaviocbio@gmail.com
5. Flavio Nunes Ramos - Universidade Federal de Alfenas - UNIFAL-MG – Email: fnramos@gmail.com