Dear editor,

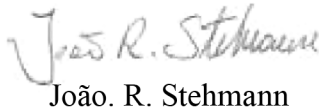
We are submitting the manuscript "**THE UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVE DISPERSAL MECHANISM OF A PRICKLY NEOTROPICAL *Solanum* (SOLANACEAE)**", authored by Bragioni and Stehmann, to be published as a **Short Communication** in Oecologia Australis. In *Solanum*, one of the largest genera of flowering plants (with over 1400 species), the explosive dispersal mechanism is a rare, being only described for a small group of non-aculeate species. Here, we empirically tested the explosive dispersal mechanism in two related species of aculeate Neotropical *Solanum*. Our results confirmed the occurrence of the explosive dehiscence in berries of one of them, *S. mellobarretoi*, but not in the other, *S. leptostachys*, besides both fruits have similar morphological traits that can be associated with bat dispersal, the most common syndrome find into the genus. More important, in times where metadata analysis are in fashion, we highlight the needs of conducting empirical studies, especially in the Neotropical region, where *Solanum* is highly diversified and large shortfalls in ecological knowledge exist.

We also confirm that the manuscript has not been published or submitted simultaneously in other journal. We suggest the following researchers as referees:

1) Alberto L. Teixido - Universidade Federal do Mato Grosso
Email: alberto.lopez.teixido@gmail.com
2) João Vasconcellos Neto - Unicamp
Email: jvascont@unicamp.br
3) Leandro Lacerda Giacomin – Universidade Federal do Oeste do Pará
Email: giacomin.leandro@gmail.com
4) Marco Aurélio Pizo Ferreira - Universidade Estadual Paulista
Email: pizo@rc.unesp.br
5) Wesley Rodrigues Silva - Unicamp
Email: wesley@unicamp.br
6) Yasmine Antonini Itabaiana – Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto
Email: antonini@ufop.edu.br

Sincerely yours,

Thamyris Bragioni



João. R. Stehmann