

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled **“LEAF LITTER WITH CONTRASTING CHEMICAL TRAITS AND DECOMPOSITION PROMOTE SIMILAR BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATES COMMUNITIES”** by Marcos Paulo Maia-Jorge, Maria Silvina Bevilacqua, Anderson da Rocha Gripp, Adriano Caliman, Rafael Dettogni Guariento, Marcos Paulo Figueiredo-Barros, José Francisco Gonçalves Junior, André Tavares Corrêa Dias, Reinaldo Luiz Bozelli and Francisco de Assis Esteves, to be considered for publication on the special volume of *Oecologia Australis*, regarding “Limnology in Brazil”.

On aquatic ecosystems, allochthonous inputs of leaf litter are common substrates for macroinvertebrates community. The quality and physical structure of these substrates determine benthic species distribution, which play an important role on litter decomposition and nutritional changes along organic matter decay process. We evaluated how benthic macroinvertebrates are associated to chemical traits of leaf litter from 16 restinga plant species in Jurubatiba lagoon, a coastal aquatic ecosystem at Restinga de Jurubatiba National Park. We found no association between benthic macroinvertebrates and leaf litter quality, despite some indications that most abundant taxa may respond to litter quality. Our results reinforce previous findings indicating that benthic community have no consistent spatial variation, and no substantial association with quality and breakdown rates at Jurubatiba lagoon.

We believe that our results will be of interest to researchers working on ecosystem ecology and trophic interactions, more specifically, on litter quality effects on benthic dynamics and decomposition. All authors have approved the submission for publication, and

everybody entitled to authorship have been included. This manuscript has not been published elsewhere and has not been submitted simultaneously in other journal(s).

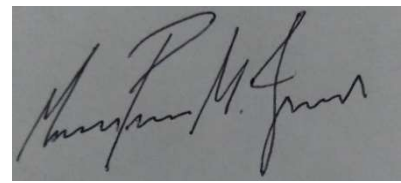
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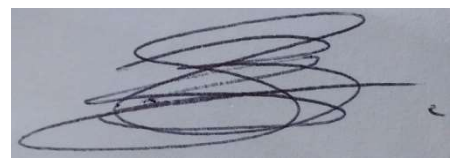
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