



Article

Diversity, chorology and conservation of the grasses (Poaceae) in Serra do Ouro Branco, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil

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Abstract

A survey of the Poaceae species that occur in Serra do Ouro Branco based on fieldwork and herbaria collections as well as bibliographical data is presented. Eighty-four species were found and are presented in a checklist. Five of these species were introduced to the area from Africa. *Isachne* (Micrairoideae) is a new record in the Espinhaço Range and *Dichanthelium stipiflorum* is a new record in the State of Minas Gerais. An analysis of the geographic distribution patterns of native species is presented together with a comparison with the Poaceae diversity on other mountains of the Espinhaço Range.

Resumo

Foi realizado o levantamento florístico das espécies de Poaceae ocorrentes na Serra do Ouro Branco, com base em expedições de coleta, revisão de herbários e de bibliografia. Foram encontradas oitenta e quatro espécies, das quais cinco introduzidas da África. *Isachne* (Micrairoideae) é um novo registro para a Cadeia do Espinhaço e *Dichanthelium stipiflorum*, para o Estado de Minas Gerais. É apresentada uma análise dos padrões de distribuição geográfica das espécies nativas, bem como uma comparação com a diversidade de Poaceae em outras áreas da Cadeia do Espinhaço.

Key words: *campo rupestre*, Espinhaço Range, geographic distribution patterns, Gramineae

Introduction

The Poaceae comprise about 10,000 species (Clayton & Renvoize 1986) and include the main components of grasslands and other open formations, as well as cereals, of outstanding worldwide economic importance.

Filgueiras *et al.* (2010) listed 1401 species of Poaceae in 204 genera for Brazil that are included in 11 of the 12 subfamilies currently accepted for the family (Sánchez-Ken & Clark 2007, 2010, Sánchez-Ken *et al.* 2007, Clark 2009).

The subfamilies Anomochlooideae and Pharoideae include only species that occur in tropical forests. Most species of the Bambusoideae are also found in forests. The other subfamilies occur predominantly in open formations: Aristidoideae, Arundinoideae, Chloridoideae, Danthonioideae, Ehrhartoideae, Micrairoideae, Panicoideae and Pooideae. Of these subfamilies, representatives of Anomochlooideae, Pharoideae, Arundinoideae and Micrairoideae were not cited in previous surveys of the Espinhaço Range (Harley & Simmons 1986, Burmann *et al.* 1987, Renvoize 1995, Zappi *et al.* 2003, Longhi-Wagner & Todeschini 2004, Viana & Lombardi 2007, Viana & Filgueiras 2008, Borges *et al.* 2011).

The Espinhaço Range is 1100 km long, and located between 20°35'S and 11°11'S (Meguro *et al.* 1994). It is formed by several named mountains, most of which are within the State of Minas Gerais, with Serra do