

Manaus, February 26th, 2020.

Recommendation for Semírian C. Amoêdo IAPT Research Grant application.

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am writing in support of Semírian C. Amoêdo application to the IAPT Research Grant 2020. Semírian is conducting her PhD in the Botany Program of the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA), Manaus (Brazil), and I am co-advising her thesis project with Dr. Isolde Ferraz.

Semírian is studying the genus *Carapa* (Meliaceae), examining different seed traits of a group of Amazonian species for which lineages are still poorly defined. It includes economically important plants, increasing the impact of her findings. I've followed the development of the project she submitted to IAPT for funding, "Phylogeography of the genus *Carapa* in the lowlands of the Amazon and the influence of polyembryony on its diversification" and consider she has done a very good job so far, basically concluding the most of the difficult part of obtaining samples for the molecular work. We've obtained part of the funds for the needed genomic sequencing from a Brazilian call (FAPEAM call 006/2019 - Universal Amazonas / Research Support Foundation of the State of Amazonas - FAPEAM) but the budget was cut to 1/3 of the proposed initially, and we are seeking additional sources to complement it. INPA has all the laboratory structure necessary for the production of the genomic data for her project.

I've been in contact with Semírian since she entered our master program some time ago and have followed her more closely for about two years. Semírian is a smart student, very committed to her research project and has been very proactive in solving all the logistic burden that a project with an Amazonian scale entails. I have no doubt about her capacity of conducting this project

I think her project is scientifically very interesting because it will examine in greater detail the evolutionary history of a widespread plant lineage in the Amazon using a phylogeographical and genomic approach, and linking to traits that are still poorly described in such detail for most Amazonian plant lineages. There are still too few phylogeographical reconstructions for Amazonian plants and she has the additional advantage of being an economically important plant lineage that surprisingly is still poorly understood taxonomically.

Please feel free to contact me in case you need further information.

Best regards,



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