



**GOVERNO FEDERAL  
MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO  
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO NORTE  
CENTRO DE BIOCÊNCIAS  
DEPARTAMENTO DE BOTÂNICA E ZOOLOGIA**

Natal, January 23<sup>th</sup> 2020.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support to the application of Arthur Soares for an IAPT research grant award.

I met Arthur when I taught the course Biodiversity II, offered by the Department of Biosciences of the University of Rio Grande do Norte. At the time as a graduate student, I can affirm that the mentioned candidate showed interest in the research and botany at the beginning of his course, when he was selected to monitor in said discipline and obtained approval in the first place. In addition, the candidate has excellent coexistence with his laboratory colleagues and other teachers, showing his ease of relationship and social interaction. Since then, I have been able to keep up with Arthur's personal and professional growth, where, as a monitor, he has developed various activities with undergraduate students always with competence and responsibility. Linked to this, the same carried out taxonomic studies with plants in Rio Grande do Norte, as a student of scientific initiation. As a master's student, in the graduate program in Systematics and Evolution, he studied various disciplines such as phylogenetic systematics, biogeography of vascular plants and evolution, being approved in all. As a product of his master's dissertation, he published two scientific articles in national and international journals, besides having other works already published or accepted for publication. Today, a doctoral student, Arthur develops research such as the genus *Oocephalus* (Benth.) Harley & J.F.B.Pastore, from the family Lamiaceae, where he will study systematics and taxonomy of the group with anatomical, molecular and morphological analyzes. In addition, Arthur is a collaborator of Flora do Brasil 2020, acting as a specialist in the genus cited above, contributing to the taxonomic knowledge of the national flora.

**Prof. Dr. Leonardo de Melo Versieux**

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