



**GOVERNO DO ESTADO DE SÃO PAULO**  
**SECRETARIA DE INFRAESTRUTURA E MEIO AMBIENTE**  
**INSTITUTO DE BOTÂNICA**



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26 February 2020

Re: Recommendation for Fabio Araujo Silva – IAPT Grant

To the Grants Committee,

It is my pleasure to write in support of Mr. Fabio Araujo Silva application for the IAPT research grant. I am a researcher at Instituto de Botanica in São Paulo, Brazil and Fabio's co-advisor. Fabio contacted me for the first time in 2016 in search of help to identify species of Acanthaceae from his graduation work, when he was still an undergraduate student in Rondônia, a state in southwestern Brazilian Amazon. In 2017 I co-advised Fábio when he joined the graduation program of Universidade Federal Rural da Amazônia-UFRA and Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi in the state of Pará, in eastern Amazonia, for his M.S. I have been deeply impressed with his intelligence and discipline in field and herbarium work, as well as his skill as a careful morphologist, discovering important differential characteristics in the species he worked with.

Fábio is now pursuing his Ph.D. in the same program. I feel very fortunate to serve again as his PhD co-advisor. Fabio's dissertation topic is on the revision of Neotropical species of *Mendoncia*, a genus with transatlantic disjunction, which neotropical species are supported as monophyletic. *Mendoncia* species are mainly Amazon forests canopy lianas, most collections are made from fallen trees, therefore, for many species, samples in Herbaria are not abundant. Identifying *Mendoncia* species in South America Herbaria is, currently, quite frustrating, and we expect that Fabio's revisionary work will solve most of the taxonomic problems on these species, as the first step towards further studies on this interesting genus.

Local herbaria in South and Central America are important repositories of their high diverse local floras, most of them cannot afford sending duplicates to large international herbaria, therefore, visiting them, as well as the large international Herbaria, is essential for a revisional work.

Fábio is an excellent young taxonomist, the requested funds would be extremely helpful in reaching his research goals.

Sincerely,

Cíntia Kameyama  
Scientific Researcher  
Herbarium SP  
Instituto de Botânica  
São Paulo, SP - Brazil