

Novo Hamburgo, 27 February 2020.

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of Andressa da Silva Rodrigues for her application for a research grant from the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IATP).

I am a Brazilian lichenologist, working with lichens and lichen ecology since 2010 and I am currently a post-doc researcher (starting in May) at the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior in the University of Minnesota, USA. Before that, from 2016 to 2019, I was also a post-doc at Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, working close to the applicant. I have known Andressa since 2014, when we met in a national lichenological meeting, and at that moment I could see she was dedicated and interested in understanding more about lichen taxonomy. When we met again in 2016 I then had the opportunity to work with her, give her classes on lichen ecology and also learn from her about how to make lichen DNA extraction and PCR analyses in the laboratory, what she taught me patiently.

Andressa's interest on lichen molecular studies increased since then, which could be noted by everybody working at the laboratory with her. Now, during her PhD thesis, she will certainly be able to greatly contribute with the study of *Parmeliaceae* in Brazil. This year she will attend our International Meeting (IAL) that will be held in Brazil, and there she will be able to share her first findings with the world's lichenological community. Therefore, I believe that IAPT funding will help her work to have an even higher impact.

Sincerely,



Dr. Natália M. Koch
Post-doc Researcher