

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Florianopolis, February 27th, 2020

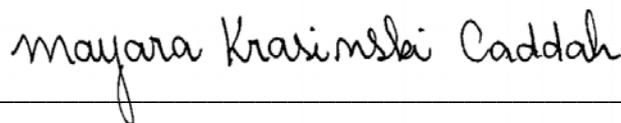
To the IAPT Research Grant Committee,

It is a pleasure to recommend Eduardo Koerich Nery, PhD candidate in the Evolution and Diversity Program of the Federal University of ABC (UFABC) as a grantee for the 2020 IAPT Research Grant.

I was Eduardo's co-advisor during his master's research at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) on the systematics of the *Hydrocotyle quinqueloba* complex (Araliaceae), where he used molecular and morphometric approaches to disentangle that species complex. The results of this research are currently in a final stage of publishing in a prestigious international journal on plant systematics. In fact, this study was a consequence of his own previous finding on that group when he was still an undergraduate student publishing in Systematic Botany. During his staying at UFSC, I can affirm, without doubts, that Eduardo surpassed all the expectations of the professors of our program, developing his research with autonomy and accurate critical and ethical sense. It is noteworthy the great laboratorial and technical ability that he managed to develop, becoming a reference in statistics analysis and in laboratorial procedures for other students in our lab. The results of his dissertation are very interesting and certainly will elucidate many points, not only in that taxonomic group, but also in similar studies, which can take advantage of the experience and scripts established by Eduardo. In addition, he acted as research advisor and as class assistant in the undergraduate program, proving to be an excellent mentor. Eduardo attended a couple of disciplines that I taught in the Master's program as well, being very smart and perceptive, always standing out among his colleagues. Last but not least, I highlight Eduardo's social and emotional skills, being cherished by students and professor of the graduate program.

Now as a PhD candidate at UFABC, Eduardo turned his focus to the challenging *Miconia*, currently one of the largest plant genera in the world. During the last years I have participated of an international group of plant taxonomists interested in producing a comprehensive phylogeny of *Miconia* and related genera. Now that the gross evolutionary pattern is clear, we urgently need integrative systematists able to join plant biology, taxonomy, evolutionary theory, statistics and bioinformatics to unveil the main evolutionary processes under this spectacular radiation at the Neotropics. I can not think on anyone else than Eduardo to comply with this intent.

In summary, Eduardo is undoubtedly one of the great talents of the Brazilian Systematics of his generation, and with appropriate support, he is going to offer us, as a taxonomists community, unexpected achievements.



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