



Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Centro de Ciências Biológicas
Departamento de Botânica

Florianópolis, 26th February, 2020

Recommendation letter

Eduardo K. Nery concluded an undergraduate Project under my supervision in 2016. As an undergrad student, Eduardo developed an impressive study on the use of geometric morphometrics in plant taxonomy, that aimed to investigate morphological gaps among several infraspecific taxa that were historically placed under *Hydrocotyle quinqueloba* Ruiz & Pav. (Araliaceae), a very polymorphic species from Southern and Southeastern Brazil and the Peruvian Andes.

During his master's thesis at the graduate program in Biology of Fungi, Algae and Plants from Federal University of Santa Catarina, also carried out under my supervision, Eduardo integrated his previous background on morphometrics with the use of ISSR molecular markers, to check if the genetic variation assessed by these markers corroborates morphological groupings based on leaf shape variation. The results of his undergraduate and master studies are respectively published at *Systematic Botany* and accepted for publication at *Plant Systematics and Evolution*, two prestigious journals on Plant Systematics.

For Eduardo's PhD dissertation, under development at the Graduate Program in Evolution and Diversity in the Federal University of ABC, Eduardo is investigating the impact of climatic niche in the evolution of *Miconia* sect. *Discolor* (Miconieae, Melastomataceae). To accomplish this, Eduardo needs financial support to visit several herbaria and for fieldwork in the Amazon.

Eduardo is a botanical researcher whose general knowledge on plant systematics and evolution, curiosity, and work capacity place him among the most promising Brazilian plant systematists. I anticipate in this student a great potential to become an outstanding researcher that could greatly contribute to advance Brazilian science. For this reason, I strongly recommend that IAPT considers granting this student with financial support for the development of this Project.

If there are any further considerations you might have regarding Eduardo's credentials, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Pedro Fiaschi
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