

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY STUDIES TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF TROPICAL PLANTS

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Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 2. This session
- Acknowledgments
- Glossary
- Bibliography
- Biographical Sketch

Summary

This chapter introduces some current topics on tropical vegetation, based on four distinct revisions that will be presented and justified. Our aims were to report the basic and recent knowledge of each theme, all of them developed in South American endangered environments. We also intend to demonstrate the conservation relevance and the economical importance associated to the tropical environment and vegetation. This kind of information is necessary to the preservation of tropical systems.

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Each chapter of this session will exemplify an important field of the natural history of the so rich tropical vegetation and ecosystems.

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Biographical Sketch

Helena Maura Torezan-Silingardi is a Brazilian biologist, graduated in Ecology and Conservation of Natural Resources by the Federal University of Uberlândia, Minas Gerais state, with doctorate in Entomology by the University of São Paulo (USP - FFCLRP), Brazil. Her major interest in ecology is the study of plant-animal interactions, specially pollinators and floral herbivores. Since 2007, she is a Post-doctoral researcher of the staff of the Plant Reproduction Laboratory at Federal University of Uberlândia, studying the impact of pollinators and floral herbivores on plant fitness from Cerrado areas in central Brazil.