



Urticaceae diversity and conservation in the State of São Paulo, Brazil

André Luiz Gaglioti¹, Sergio Romaniuc-Neto²

¹. Núcleo de Pesquisa Curadoria do Herbário Instituto de Botânica, São Paulo-SP
agaglioti@gmail.com

The State of São Paulo comprises about 250.000 km² of southeastern Brazil. The two main types of vegetation State, tropical rain forest (Atlantic Forest) and Cerrado, were included in the list of biodiversity hotspots by IUCN. Urticaceae is a monophyletic group, ranging from herbaceous to woody, with presence of cystoliths, bark or latex restricted or very small, translucent latex, often mucilaginous, pseudomonorous gynoecium with basal and orthotropic ovule, curved or straight stamens and achene fruit. The family has a cosmopolitan distribution, including about 49 genera and approximately 2000 species, distributed in tropical and subtropical, rarely in temperate regions. The study of Urticaceae in the State of São Paulo was based on analysis of 1938 herbarium materials from Brazil and abroad, observation and sampling of populations in nature. In São Paulo, Urticaceae is represented by 11 genera and 28 species. *Cecropia pachystachya* Trécul has the widest distribution in the State. *Boehmeria ulmifolia* Wedd., *Myriocarpa stipitata* Benth., *Phenax angustifolius* (Kunth) Wedd., *Pilea hilariana* Wedd. and *P. hyalina* Fenzl were the species that presented a more restricted distribution. Given this situation, we suggest the inclusion of these taxa in the next endangered species lists for the State of São Paulo, of which *B. ulmifolia*, *M. stipitata*, *P. angustifolius* and *P. hyalina* are classified in the NT category - near threatened, and *P. hilariana* in the vulnerable B2ab(iii) category (VU), according to IUCN criteria (2010). All Urticaceae species occur in the Atlantic Forest, although only *Boehmeria cylindrica* (L.) Sw., *C. pachystachya*, *Pilea microphylla* (L.) Liebm. and *Urera baccifera* (L.) Gaudich. ex Wedd. occur in Cerrado.

Keywords: Nettles, Embaúbas, *Pilea*, *Boehmeria*, Atlantic Forest, IUCN

Funding agency: CAPES