# Vascular Flora of a Cerrado *sensu stricto* remnant in Pratânia, state of São Paulo, southeastern Brazil

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**ABSTRACT:** The Cerrado (Brazilian savanna) has suffered massive destruction in recent years, mainly due to the expansion of agricultural areas. Many remnants of this vegetation are still poorly studied. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to carry out a floristic survey in a remnant of Cerrado in the municipality of Pratânia, central-west region of state of São Paulo, southeastern Brazil. In total, 120 species (38 families, 88 genera) were registered. The families with greater richness were: Fabaceae (23 species), Asteraceae (15), Myrtaceae (10), Malpighiaceae and Rubiaceae (seven each) and Bignoniaceae (five). The shrub component was predominant in the study area representing 37.5 % of the recorded species. A comparison among eight Cerrado areas showed greater similarity between areas with similar altitude.

## INTRODUCTION

LISTS OF SPECIES

The Brazilian savanna, so-called Cerrado, is the second largest biome of Brazil (Ribeiro and Walter 1998) and occupies the intermediate region between the two largest Neotropical moist forests: the Amazon forest and Atlantic forest (Méio *et al.* 2003).

The typical vegetation landscape of this biome consists of savanna of very variable structure, encompassing different vegetation physiognomies, and is termed Cerrado sensu lato. Depending on some environmental characteristics a series of physiognomies can be found, ranging from open grasslands (campo limpo) to dense woodlands (cerradão), with three intermediate physiognomies: campo sujo, grassland with a scattering of shrubs and small trees; campo Cerrado, where there are more shrubs and trees but still a larger proportion of grassland; and Cerrado sensu stricto, where trees and shrubs dominate but with a fair amount of herbaceous vegetation (Coutinho 2002). These differences are due to the wide area and distribution of Cerrado vegetation which provides a variety of environmental conditions related to seasonal precipitation, soil fertility and drainage, temperature and fire regime (Durigan et al. 2003). These variations condition the settlement of a Cerrado vegetation mosaic even in small areas (Coutinho 2002). According to Rizzini (1971), more than half of Brazil's central savanna flora is originated from other vegetation types, which also contributes to its floristic heterogeneity. Besides the ecological importance of the Cerrado, many elements of the Cerrado flora have some economic potential, for example, as a source of active ingredients for the pharmaceutical industry among other uses (Cavassan 2002).

Despite its relevance, the Cerrado has been continuously destroyed to create pastures and field crops. In São Paulo state, southeastern Brazil, the Cerrado remnants are today very reduced and fragmented (Durigan *et al.* 2004) and only 0.5 % of the original area is protected in some

kind of conservation unit (Durigan *et al.* 2006). Even so, these remnants are notably rich in species and therefore highly representative (Ratter *et al.* 2003) since 34 % of the total Cerrado species set can be found in São Paulo state (Cavassan 2002).

The Cerrado is included in the list of global hotspots or areas with high concentrations of endemic species, which suffered heavy habitat losses (Myers et al. 2000). The flora inventory is the first step to vegetation knowledge and its best use, serving as a basis for ecological studies and the planning of conservation projects (Felfili *et al.* 1993; Mendonça et al. 1998). Considering this, in the centralwest region of São Paulo state, municipality of Pratânia, a Cerrado sensu stricto remnant was inventoried to provide a vascular flora check list. This study is part of a larger project which intends to perform a more detailed vegetation study concerning the structure and dynamics of the woody component of a Cerrado fragment in Pratânia Municipality, and was developed aiming to add information to the initial inventory performed by Machado et al. (2005), which included all three Cerrado physiognomies occurring in the area.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The studied area is a Cerrado *sensu stricto* remnant located within a larger Cerrado fragment of nearly 180 ha that also presents other two Cerrado physiognomies: a cerradão and a campo Cerrado remnant. The fragment belongs to a private reserve of Cerrado (22°48'50" S, 48°44'36" W: 720 m average altitude), located in Pratânia Municipality, at the central-west region of São Paulo state, southeastern Brazil (Figure 1). The fragment is surrounded by pastures, sugar cane and eucalyptus plantations. The climate of the region is Cwa according to Koeppen classification, that is, humid subtropical climate with hot summers and no prolonged drought, annual average temperature of 21°C and annual average rainfall of 1,128 mm (Déstro and Campos 2006). The soils are classified as Latosol and Argisol (according to the Brazilian System of Soil Classification, EMBRAPA 1999).

The floristic survey was carried from January to October 2008, on a weekly basis. Approximately 1 ha of the Cerrado sensu stricto area was inventoried and all species in reproductive phase were collected and identified. Voucher specimens were deposited in the Herbarium BOTU (Herbário "Irina Delanova Gemtchújnicov", Instituto de Biociências de Botucatu, UNESP). The floristic similarity was estimated using the Jaccard Index (Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg 1974) and included the present study and other seven previously published studies on Cerrado sensu lato vegetation performed in São Paulo state. Species with incomplete identification (only genus, aff. or cf.) were excluded as well as those whose occurrence was reported in just one area, according to methodology adopted by Ratter et al. (2003). Only floristic surveys which included all plant habits were compared. A cluster analysis among these eight areas was also performed using the Jaccard Index of Similarity and the UPGMA algorithm for the dendrogram elaboration (Sneath and Sokal 1973).

In the center of the sampled area a 5 x 30 m transect was delimited and every woody plant with stem basal diameter equal or superior to 3 cm was recorded and drawn, in order to make a profile diagram, according to Albuquerque and Rodrigues (2000).

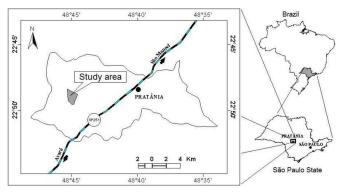


FIGURE 1. Location of study area in Pratânia, state of São Paulo, southeastern Brazil.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

A total of 119 species of Angiosperms (37 families, 87 genera) and one pteridophyte were registered (Table 1). Although this number may seem small compared to core Cerrado (see Gottsberger and Silberbauer-Gottsberger 2006), many São Paulo state Cerrado areas have similar species number (see references in Table 2). Gottsberger and Silberbauer-Gottsberger (2006) also quoted these regional variations and provided an extensive discussion about this matter, pointing out that local edaphic condition and climate characteristics may interfere on the floristic composition, contributing to the extreme Cerrado flora heterogeneity.

The most species-rich families were Fabaceae with 23 species in total (10 species on Faboideae, seven on Mimosoideae and 6 on Caesalpinoideae), Asteraceae (15 species), Myrtaceae (10), Malpighiaceae and Rubiaceae (seven species each) and Bignoniaceae (five). These families account for 56 % of the surveyed species. The richest genera were *Eugenia* (five species), *Byrsonima*,

*Miconia, Mimosa* and *Vernonia* (four species each). Among the angiosperms, 20 families and 69 genera had one single species.

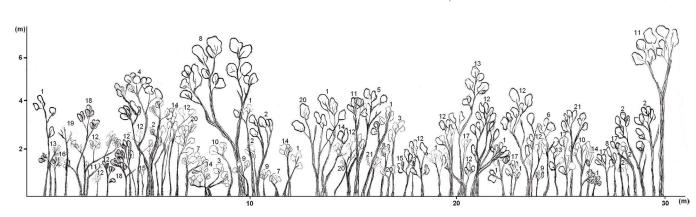
Several weeds (17 species) were found in the area: Baccharis dracunculifolia, Bidens gardineri, Chamaecrista desvauxii, C. flexuosa, Commelina diffusa, Cuphea cartaginensis, Emilia sonchifolia, Lantana camara, Mikania cordifolia, Pterocaulon lanatum, Pyrostegia venusta, Sida linearifolia, Solanum americanum, S. lycocarpum, Spermacoce capitata, Vernonia cognata and V. polyanthes. This indicates some disturbance, probably caused by the proximity of agricultural areas. Four Cerrado species found in the study area - Arrabidaea brachypoda, A. florida, Byrsonima intermedia and Dimorphandra mollis – are frequently quoted as weeds (Lorenzi 2008) in areas where the original Cerrado vegetation was removed for the introduction of crops or pastures.

Shrubs make up 37.5 % of the inventoried flora, followed by herbs (27.5 %), trees (23 %), and vines (12 %). Among the shrub species, the richest families were Asteraceae and Myrtaceae (seven species each) and Fabaceae (five). Apocynaceae, Dilleniaceae, Erytroxylaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Lamiaceae and Proteaceae showed only one shrub species each. Among the herbs the richest families were: Fabaceae (nine species), Asteraceae (seven) and Rubiaceae (three). Acanthaceae, Amaranthaceae, Commelinaceae, Convolvulaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Lythraceae, Polypodiaceae and Sapotaceae had only one herbaceous species each. The arboreal component had Fabaceae (seven species), Malpighiaceae and Myrtaceae (three species each) as the richest families. Araliaceae, Chrysobalanaceae, Ebenaceae, Malvaceae, Ochnaceae, Salicaceae and Vochysiaceae had only one tree species each. The families with the highest number of vines were Apocynaceae and Bignoniaceae, both with three species each, and Fabaceae with two species. The other families where vines were represented had only one species each (see Table 1).

Machado *et al.* (2005), in an inventory of all Cerrado physiognomies in the same fragment quoted 168 species in total, but there was no indication of the class or classes of physiognomy where the plant species were found. This makes the comparisons difficult. However, it was possible to observe that 66 species were common to our inventory and that 54 species that we found were not collected by Machado *et al.* (2005), while they quote 102 other species that were not observed by us. These conflicting results are possibly due to the fact that our research was limited to the Cerrado *sensu stricto* area, while Machado *et al.* (2005) inventoried all the Cerrado physiognomies. On the other hand, the results highlight the fact that even in a restrict area more species can be found depending on the inventory effort.

The profile diagram of the vegetation (Figure 2) shows the occurrence of a dense woody layer, consisting of trees of small to medium size (three to six m tall), shrubs and sub-shrubs with multiple stems. A low, almost continuous canopy was observed, characterizing a dense Cerrado.

The overall number of species sampled in the eight localities chosen to be compared in relation to floristic similarity (Table 2) was 752. From this total, 431 species were discarded because they occurred in just one location.



**FIGURE 2.** Profile diagram representing the woody component in the area of Cerrado *sensu stricto*, Pratânia, SP. 1. Acosmium subelegans, 2. Bauhinia rufa, 3. Byrsonima coccolobifolia, 4. Byrsonima verbascifolia, 5. Casearia sylvestris, 6. Dimorphandra mollis, 7. Diospyros hispida, 8. Eriotheca gracilipes, 9. Erythroxylum tortuosum, 10. Gochnatia barrosii, 11. Machaerium acutifolium, 12. Miconia albicans, 13. Myrcia bella, 14. Myrcia lingua, 15. Ouratea spectabilis, 16. Piptocarpha rotundifolia, 17. Myrsine umbellata, 18. Schefflera vinosa, 19. Dead plant, 20. Stryphnodendron polyphyllum, 21. Styrax camporum.

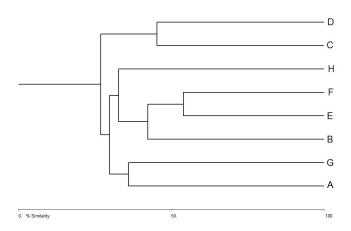
The remaining set revealed that only 10 species were recorded in all eight Cerrado areas: Anadenanthera falcata, Byrsonima coccolobifolia, B. verbascifolia, Machaerium acutifolium, Miconia albicans, Myrcia bella, Ouratea spectabilis, Schefflera vinosa, Styrax ferrugineus and Vochysia tucanorum. Only 125 species occurred in more than four Cerrado areas. There were also nine species that occurred only in the Cerrado of Pratânia: Aspilia reflexa, Chromolaena congesta, Commelina diffusa, Crotalaria longifolia, Dalechampia micromeria, Icthyothere elliptica, Mimosa xanthocentra, Pterocaulon lanatum and Serjania caracasana.

The highest similarity index (54 %) was found between the Cerrado areas located in Botucatu Municipality, at altitudes around 500 m (Table 3). The similarity among the other sites was lower, but there was a trend leading to higher similarity between neighboring areas or between areas with similar altitude. In this category lies the Cerrado of Pratânia (720 m altitude) which was more similar to another Botucatu Cerrado (830 m altitude).

The cluster analysis (Figure 3) show the segregation of three major groups, one including areas of Assis, one including only the area of Pratânia and one area of Botucatu, both with higher altitudes (720 and 830 m, respectively) and other group joined areas with elevations ranging from 500 to 600 m. The higher similarity was observed between Cerrado areas within the same municipality or neighbor areas (Table 3). These results support the statement that the Cerrado vegetation is extremely variable even in very close locations, as noted before in other Cerrado biome areas (Bridgewater *et al.* 2004).

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The species-richness and the peculiarities of the Cerrado of Pratânia indicate the importance of this fragment as a remnant of the original Cerrado vegetation in the area and may possibly serve as a floristic reference for future conservation measures.



**FIGURE 3.** Cluster analysis (UPGMA) using Jaccard's Index among eight Cerrado *sensu lato* areas in São Paulo state. The areas are identified by letters (A to H) which are described in Table 2.

TABLE 1. Species recorded in the Cerrado sensu stricto area in Pratânia, SP.

SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT
Pteridophyta		
Polypodiaceae		
Polypodium latipes Langsd. & L. Fisch.	polipódio-de-pé-largo	Herb
Angiospermae		
Acanthaceae		
Ruellia geminiflora Kunth	ipecaconha	Herb
Amaranthaceae		
Gomphrena macrocephala A. StHil.	para-tudo-do-Cerrado	Herb
Apocynaceae		
Blepharodon bicuspidatum E. Fourn.	-	Vine
Blepharodon nitidum (Vell.) J.F. Macbr.	-	Vine
Mandevilla velutina K. Schum.	jalapa	Shrub
Temnadenia violacea (Vell.) Miers	-	Vine

### TABLE 1. CONTINUED.

SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT
Araliaceae		
Schefflera vinosa (Cham. & Schltdl.) Frodin & Fiaschi	mandioqueira	Tree
Asteraceae		
Aspilia reflexa Baker	bem-me-quer	Herb
Baccharis dracunculifolia DC.	alecrim-do-campo	Shrub
Bidens gardneri Baker	picão	Herb
Chromolaena campestris (DC.) R.M. King & H. Rob.	-	Shrub
Chromolaena congesta (Hook. & Arn.) R.M. King & H.	_	herb
Rob. <i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> (L.) DC.	bela-emília	Herb
Gochnatia barrosii Cabrera	cambará-veludo	Shrub
Ichthyothere elliptica H. Rob.	lixa	Herb
Mikania cordifolia (L. f.) Willd.	cipó-cabeludo	Vine
Piptocarpha rotundifolia (Less.) Baker	solidão	Shrub
Pterocaulon lanatum Kuntze	branqueja	Shrub
Vernonia cognata Less.	assa-peixe-roxo	Herb
Vernonia geminata Kunth.	-	Shrub
Vernonia grandiflora Less.	- saudades-do-campo	Herb
Vernonia polyanthes Less.	assa-peixe	Shrub
Bignoniaceae	assa-peixe	5111 UD
Arrabidaea brachypoda (DC. Bureau)	cipó-una	Vine
Arrabidaea florida DC.	cipó-neve	Vine
Jacaranda oxyphylla Cham.	-	Shrub
	caroba-de-são-paulo	Vine
Pyrostegia venusta (Ker Gawl.) Miers	cipó-de-são-joão	Shrub
Zeyheria montana Mart. Bromeliaceae	bolsa-de-pastor	SIII UD
	abacaxi-do-Cerrado	Herb
Ananas ananassoides (Baker) L.B. Sm.		Herb
Dyckia leptostachya Baker	gravatazinho	пего
Chrysobalanaceae	·''' 1	The second
Couepia grandiflora (Mart. & Zucc.) Benth. ex Hook.f.	oiti-do-sertão	Tree
Clusiaceae		The second
Kielmeyera coriacea Mart. & Zucc.	para-tudo	Tree
Kielmeyera rubriflora Cambess.	para-tudo	Tree
Commelinaceae	. 1	
<i>Commelina diffusa</i> Burm. f.	trapoeraba	Herb
Convolvulaceae		
Evolvulus canescens Meisn.	-	Herb
Cucurbitaceae		
Cayaponia espelina (Silva Manso) Cogn.	espelina-verdadeira	Vine
Dilleniaceae		
Davilla elliptica A. StHil.	cipó-vermelho	Shrub
Ebenaceae		
Diospyros hispida A. DC.	caqui-do-Cerrado	Tree
Erythroxylaceae		
Erythroxylum tortuosum Mart.	galinha-choca	Shrub
Euphorbiaceae		
Dalechampia micromeria Baill.	goela-de-pato	Vine
Manihot caerulescens Pohl	mandioca-brava	Shrub
Sebastiania serrulata (Mart.) Mullenders	-	Herb
Fabaceae-Caesalpinioideae		
Bauhinia rufa (Bong.) Steud.	pata-de-vaca	Shrub
Chamaecrista cathartica (Mart.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby	sene-do-campo	Herb
Chamaecrista desvauxii (Collad.) Killip	sene	Shrub
Chamaecrista flexuosa (L.) Greene	mimosa	Herb
Dimorphandra mollis Benth.	falso-barbatimão	Tree

### TABLE 1. CONTINUED.

SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT
Fabaceae-Faboideae		
Acosmium subelegans (Mohlenbr.) Yakovlev	amendoim-falso	Tree
Bowdichia virgilioides Kunth	sucupira-preta	Tree
Clitoria simplicifolia (Kunth) Benth.	-	Herb
Crotalaria longifolia Lam.	crotalária	Herb
Crotalaria maypurensis Kunth	crotalária	Herb
Galactia eriosematoides Harms	-	Shrub
<i>Glycine</i> sp.		Vine
Machaerium acutifolium Vogel	jacarandá-do-campo	Tree
Stylosanthes acuminata M. B. Ferreira & S. Costa	meladinho	Herb
Vigna sp.		Vine
Fabaceae-Mimosoideae		
Anadenanthera falcata (Benth.) Speg.	angico-do-Cerrado	Tree
Mimosa capillipes Benth.	mimosa	Herb
Mimosa dolens Vell.	juquiri	Shrub
<i>Mimosa rixosa</i> Mart.	mimosa	Herb
Mimosa xanthocentra Mart.	juquiri	Herb
Stryphnodendron adstringens (Mart.) Coville	barbatimão	Tree
Stryphnodendron polyphyllum Mart.	barbatimão	Tree
Lamiaceae		
Aegiphila lhotszkyana Cham.	tamanqueira	shrub
Hypenia macrantha (A. StHil. ex Benth.) Harley	-	herb
Hyptis crinita Benth.	-	herb
Lythraceae		
Cuphea cartaginensis (Jacq.) Machbr.	sete-sangrias	herb
Malpighiaceae		
Banisteriopsis variabilis B. Gates	_	shrub
Byrsonima basiloba A. Juss.	murici-amargoso	tree
Byrsonima coccolobifolia Kunth	murici-pequeno	tree
Byrsonima intermedia A. Juss.	canjica	shrub
Byrsonima verbascifolia (L.) DC.	murici	tree
Heteropterys umbellata A.Juss.	_	shrub
Tetrapterys ramiflora A. Juss	cipó-preto	shrub
Malvaceae		
Eriotheca gracilipes (K. Schum.) A. Robyns	paina-do-campo	tree
Peltaea polymorpha (A. StHil.) Krapov. & Cristóbal	malva-do-campo	shrub
Sida linearifolia A. StHil.	-	shrub
Waltheria communis A. StHil.	-	shrub
Melastomataceae		5111 d B
Miconia albicans (Sw.) Triana	quaresmeira-branca	tree
Miconia fallax DC.	-	shrub
Miconia ligustroides (DC.) Naudin	vassoura-preta	tree
Miconia stenostachya DC.	papaterra	shrub
Myrsinaceae	P P	
Myrsine guianensis Aubl.	capororoca-comum	tree
Myrsine gulanensis Habi. Myrsine umbellata (Mart.) Mez	capororoca-verdadeira	tree
Myrtaceae	superereta vertautella	
Eugenia aurata O.Berg	murtinha	shrub
Eugenia bimarginata DC.	aperta-goela	shrub
	-	shrub
<i>Eugenia livida</i> Elmer		shrub
Eugenia livida Elmer Fugenia obversa O. Berg	truta-de-nerdiz	SHIUD
Eugenia obversa O. Berg	fruta-de-perdiz cereia-do-Cerrado	shrub
Eugenia obversa O. Berg Eugenia punicifolia (Kunth) DC.	cereja-do-Cerrado	shrub
Eugenia obversa O. Berg	-	shrub tree tree

## TABLE 1. CONTINUED.

SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT
Psidium cinereum Mart. ex DC.	araçá	shrub
Psidium incanescens Mart. ex DC.	araçá	shrub
Ochnaceae		
Ouratea spectabilis (Mart. ex Engl.) Engl.	batiputá	tree
Poaceae		
Loudetiopsis chrysothrix (Nees) Conert	_	herb
Panicum olyroides Kunth	_	herb
Proteaceae		
Roupala montana Willd.	carne-de-vaca	shrub
Rubiaceae		
Alibertia concolor (Cham.) K. Schum.	marmelinho-do-campo	shrub
Alibertia sessilis (Vell.) K. Schum.	marmelada	shrub
Coccocypselum lanceolatum (Ruiz & Pav.) Pers.	piririca	herb
Declieuxia fruticosa (Willd. ex Roem. & Schult.) Kuntze	-	herb
Palicourea rigida Kunth	douradinha	shrub
Spermacoce capitata Ruiz & Pav.	poaia-da-praia	herb
Tocoyena formosa (Cham. & Schltdl.) K. Schum.	jenipapo-bravo	shrub
Salicaceae		
Casearia sylvestris Sw.	guaçatonga	tree
Sapindaceae		
Serjania caracasana (Jacq.) Willd.	-	vine
Sapotaceae		
<i>Pouteria subcaerulea</i> Pierre ex Dubard	curriola-rasteira	herb
Smilacaceae		
Smilax polyantha Griseb.	_	vine
Solanaceae		
Solanum americanum Mill.	maria-pretinha	shrub
Solanum lycocarpum A. StHil.	lobeira	shrub
Styracaceae		
<i>Styrax camporum</i> Pohl	laranjeira-do-mato	tree
Styrax ferrugineus Nees & Mart.	laranjeira-do-campo	tree
Verbenaceae		
Lantana camara L.	cambarazinho	shrub
Lippia lupulina Cham.	rosa-do-campo	shrub
Lippia velutina Schauer	-	shrub
Vitaceae		
Cissus inundata (Baker) Planch.	_	vine
Vochysiaceae		
Vochysia tucanorum Mart.	pau-de-tucano	tree

TABLE 2. Areas of Cerrado sensu lato in São Paulo state compared with this study.

CODE FOR THE AREAS	STUDY SITE	PHYSIOGNOMY	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CLIMATE TYPE*	ALTITUDE (M)	N OF TAXONS	REFERENCE
Α	Pratânia	Cerrado sensu stricto	22°48'50" S, 48°44'36" W	Cwa	720	120	Present study
В	Agudos	Cerrado sensu stricto	22° to 23° S, 49°30' to 48°50' W	Cwa	550	212	Bertoncini (unpublished data)
С	Assis	Cerrado sensu stricto	22°33'65" to 22°36'68" S, 50°23'00" to 50°22'29" W	Cwa	520 a 590	298	Durigan <i>et al.</i> (1999)
D	Assis	Cerradão	22°33'65" to 22°36'68" S, 50°23'00" to 50°22'29" W	Cwa	520 a 590	242	Durigan <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Е	Botucatu	Cerradão	22°48' S, 48°17' W	Cfa	500	260	Bicudo (unpublished data)
F	Botucatu	Cerrado sensu stricto	22°45' S, 48°25' W	Cfa	550	301	Gottsberger and Silberbauer- Gottsberger (2006)
G	Botucatu	Cerrado sensu stricto	22°57′34″ S, 48°31′20″ W	Cfa	830	184	Ishara et al. (2008)
Н	Santa Rita do Passa Quatro	Cerrado sensu stricto	21°43' S, 47°35' W	Cwa	600	141	Weiser and Godoy (2001)

\* According to the Koeppen Classification

**TABLE 3.** Jaccard's Index among eight Cerrado *sensu lato* areas in São Paulo state. In bold the highest rates obtained. The areas are identified by letters (A to H) which are described in table 2.

	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
Α	*	34,02	25,56	15,84	33,97	26,01	36,09	25,75
В	*	*	34,44	24,11	39,06	45,74	34,98	35,83
C	*	*	*	45,37	37,05	36,90	30,09	31,73
D	*	*	*	*	20,65	20,08	22,77	21,92
Е	*	*	*	*	*	54,02	28,95	29,24
F	*	*	*	*	*	*	27,70	33,49
G	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	29,48
Н	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** We are grateful to the owners of the Private Reserve of Cerrado "Fazenda Palmeira da Serra" for research license, to FAPESP for a grant conceded to the first author and to CAPES for a grant conceded to the second author. We also thank Dr. Silvia Rodrigues Machado for suggestions and logistic support which contributed to the development of the present research.

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Received: April 2010 Revised: April 2010 Accepted: April 2010 Published online: August 2010 Editorial responsibility: Angelo Gilberto Manzatto