

Vegetation types of the environmental protection area of Ecological Sanctuary of Pedra Branca, Caldas, MG, Brazil

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Workshop Information

I Workshop of Plant Biology (I Workshop de Biologia Vegetal) was held in the Bioscience Institute – UNESP, campus of Rio Claro, Brazil, during August 20 and 21, 2012. Workshop was a scientific event organized by Post-graduate students from that Institute aiming to integrate Post-graduate and Graduate students from different areas related to Plant Biology (Anatomy, Ecology, Evolution, Morphology, Physiology, and transitional areas) from different Universities. Workshop Organization offered a large number of speaking activities, scientific discussions, and extra short-courses to improve the knowledge and formation of students in Plant Biology.

Scientific Committee

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The Environmental Protection Area "Ecological Sanctuary of Pedra Branca" is located in the municipality of Caldas, southern Minas Gerais state. In the 119 km² of the area, the altitude is always above 1000m, reaching 1760m in the summit, the Serra da Pedra Branca. In order to characterize its vegetation types, expeditions were conducted during 18 months of Apa. It was identified Montane Seasonal Semideciduous Forest and Upper Montane Forest, High Altitude Grassland (*campos de altitude*), Rocky Fields and Forested Savanna. Due to the high degree of fragmentation of local vegetation and the large expanse covered by pasture, crops and mining, the greater diversity of species occurs along the Serra da Pedra Branca, is due to the integrity of the flora or a combination of altitude, climate and topography that favour the emergence of a mosaic of vegetation types. The results presented here also demonstrate the need for greater supervision in this hill, which is under increasing human pressure.