



## Euastrum and Micrasterias (family Desmidiaceae) in lentic tropical ecosystem, Brazil

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**Abstract:** This study aimed to perform the taxonomic survey of *Euastrum* and *Micrasterias* in a lentic tropical environment, seeking to contribute to the knowledge on biodiversity and geographical distribution of the Zygnemaphyceae. Conducted at the Samambaia Reservoir, ten samples were collected in the dry season (24/09/10 and 04/11/10) and ten in the rainy season (06/01/11 and 02/03/11). Periphyton was sampled from stems of aquatic plants (Cyperaceae), which were in the marginal area of the reservoir. With the floristic survey, 22 taxa were identified representing the genus *Euastrum* (9) and *Micrasterias* (13), of these 16 are new records for the State of Goiás. In relation the frequency of occurrence and the seasonal period, 19 taxa were classified in the rare category and three in common, nine species were recorded during the dry season, while four only in the rainy season.

**Keywords:** desmids, periphyton, sazonal, taxonomy, Zygnemaphyceae.

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**Resumo:** Este estudo objetivou o levantamento taxonômico de *Euastrum* e *Micrasterias* em um ambiente tropical lento, visando contribuir para o conhecimento da biodiversidade e distribuição geográfica de Zygnemaphyceae. Realizado na Represa Samambaia, dez amostras foram coletadas no período seco (24/09/10 e 04/11/10) e dez no período chuvoso (06/01/11 e 02/03/11). O perifiton foi amostrado de pecíolos de plantas aquáticas (Cyperaceae) que se encontravam na região litorânea da represa. Com o levantamento florístico foram identificados 22 táxons representantes dos gêneros *Euastrum* (nove) e *Micrasterias* (13), destes, 16 são novas citações para o Estado de Goiás. Em relação à freqüência de ocorrência e ao período sazonal, 19 táxons foram enquadrados na categoria raro e três em comum, nove espécies foram registrados para o período seco, enquanto quatro somente na estação chuvosa.

**Palavras-chave:** desmídias, perifiton, sazonal, taxonomia, Zygnemaphyceae.

## Introduction

Although relatively discrete, algae have a great importance in the freshwater environment, both ecologically terms as in relation to human use of natural resources (Bellinger & Sige 2010). The number of species recognized probably underestimates the actual number of existing species, since many habitats and regions are not extensively sampled (Stevenson et al. 1996).

When algae live with bacteria, fungi, protozoa and microcrustaceans, they form the periphyton, a complex community of microorganisms with organic or inorganic debris adhered and associated to a natural or artificial, living or dead substrate (Wetzel 1983). Thus the periphyton serves as a microcosm which occurs simultaneously in their benthic, autotrophic and heterotrophic internal processes (Wetzel 1983). Still, periphyton is the food basis for the trophic chains because it is rich in proteins, vitamins and minerals important for many organisms, as well as represents an effective participation in the recycling of various inorganic nutrients and photosynthetic production, since most of their components are algae (Wetzel 1983).

Periphytic algae are of interest because these organisms play an important role in both lotic and lentic water bodies because as primary producers (Lam & Lei 1999), they are a protein food source and shelter for many invertebrates and fishes (Cattaneo & Kalf 1978). And it is this important and complex community that we can find the green algae belonging to the class Zygnemaphyceae and covering two orders, the Desmidiales and Zygnematales.

In Desmidiales, among four families (Gonatozygaceae, Peniaceae, Closteriaceae and Desmidiaceae) according to the classification of Mix (1972) proved by McCourt et al. (2000) using analysis of molecular biology, the Desmidiaceae family is the largest in number of genus and species. Most species of this family have a median constriction that defines the narrow isthmus, which connects the two halves of cell (Brook 1981, Coesel 1996), for example, the genus *Euastrum* and *Micrasterias* target in this study. Another point, is that the species of this order are found in oligomesotrophic aquatic environments (Coesel 1996, Gerrath 2003).

Taxonomic papers that specifically address the genus *Euastrum* and *Micrasterias* are more common to the State of

Paraná (Moresco et al. 2009, Felisberto & Rodrigues 2011), Rio de Janeiro (Sophia 1989), São Paulo (Bicudo & Sormus 1982, Sormus & Bicudo 1997), Bahia (Oliveira et al. 2009, Oliveira et al. 2011) and Amazonas (Martins 1986, Melo et al. 2009). In Goiás, Felisberto & Rodrigues (2002) have studied both genus with the periphyton of Corumbá Reservoir.

This study aims to conduct a taxonomic survey of the species of genus *Euastrum* and *Micrasterias* of periphyton in two periods (dry and rainy) in the Samambaia Reservoir. In this way, we hope contribute to the knowledge in terms of biodiversity and new records for the Midwest and consequently to Brazil.

## Material and methods

The study area ( $16^{\circ} 35' S$ ,  $49^{\circ} 16' W$ , Figure 1) is located in Campus II of the Federal University of Goiás in Goiânia-GO, Central West region of Brazil.

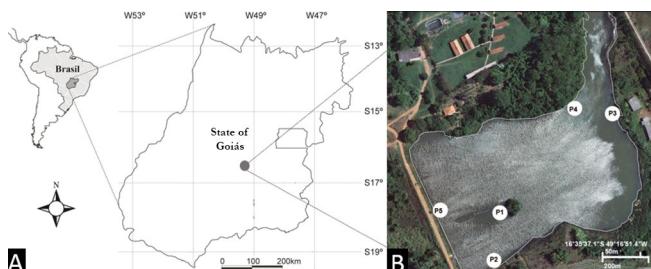
The Samambaia Reservoir was constructed in 1972 by damming the stream Samambaia (Brandão & Kravchenko 1997), it has an average depth of 3.5 m and was characterized as an environment oligo to mesotrophic (Nogueira 1999). This reservoir has been built to the purpose of fish farming experiments of Federal University of Goiás (UFG) and later went on to supply the entire university campus through the company of Goiás Sanitation S/A (Saneago), although there are significant point sources and diffuse of pollutants (Nogueira 1999).

Sampling stations were abbreviated as P1 = the island, P2 = near the Saneago house, P3 = next to the nascent, P4 = beside of the forest and P5 = bar near the road to the dam.

The characterization of drought and rain was based on climatological daily data rainfall obtained through newsletters from the Evapoplumiometric Station of Goiânia, located in the School of Agronomy and Food Engineering, UFG, distant about 600 m of the study area. The climate in the study area is considered as tropical by according to Köppen classification (Peel et al. 2007).

Periphyton was collected from stems of aquatic plants (Cyperaceae) that were in the marginal area of the reservoir (Three petioles per sample point), five sampling points in the study area. Twenty samples were collected, ten in the dry season (24/09/10 and 04/11/10) and ten in the rainy season (06/01/11 and 02/03/11).

The periphytic substrate material was removed with the aid of a razor blade followed by distilled water jets. After scraping, the material was transferred to vials, preserved and fixed with Transeau solution (Bicudo & Menezes 2006).



**Figure 1.** Location map of the Samambaia Reservoir (A). Sampling stations of the Samambaia Reservoir (B): P1 to P5. Source: Souza et al. (2014).

The samples are deposited in the herbarium collection of the Federal University of Goiás, Goiânia-GO under the numbering 47324-47349.

The samples were analyzed between slide and cover slip in the preparation of 10 temporary blades per sample. The capture images of subjects was processed with the aid of the optical microscope ZEISS brand (model Axioskop 40) and a digital camera coupled by the optical system of the microscope.

Identification of taxa was made by the morphological and morphometric characteristics of the cells, which were obtained by the optical microscope at the increase of 40x and 100x, and consultation to the specialized literature base, including articles, reviews and monographs. It was observed, when possible, the three views necessary for taxonomic identification of the desmids: frontal, lateral and apical. For the taxonomic classification, it was followed the recommendation of Bicudo & Menezes (2006).

The frequency of occurrence, in percent, was calculated considering the presence and absence of the taxon in the sampling stations and divided by the total number of taxa sampled. The categories used were: Rare ( $\leq 10\%$ ), Common ( $> 10\% \leq 30\%$ ) and Constant ( $> 30\%$ ), adapted from Guille (1970).

## Results and discussion

Finalized the taxonomic survey of the genus studied, a total of 22 taxa of *Euastrum* (9) and *Micrasterias* (13) were identified.

### *Euastrum* Ehrenberg ex Ralfs 1848

Cells isolated, oval, trapezoid to quadrilateral, usually longer than broad, deep median incision; semicells usually 3-lobed, two lateral lobes, the polar generally have an apical notch and is more deeply incised around the margin, smooth cell wall; semicell with a relatively narrow isthmus (Bicudo & Menezes 2006).

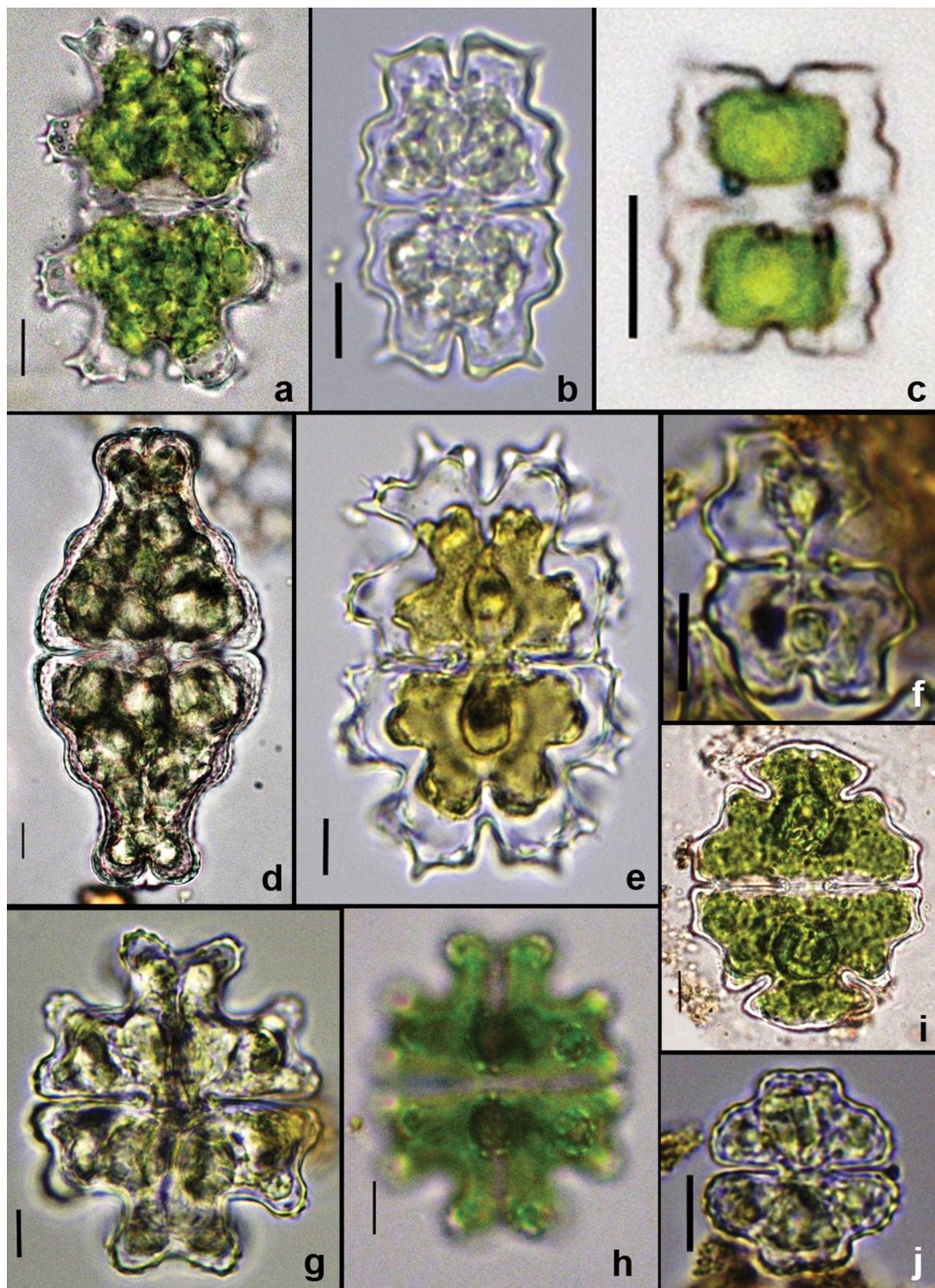
*Euastrum abruptum* Nordstedt, Vid. Medd. Naturh. Foren. Kjöbenhavn, III (14/15): 217. Pl. 2, fig. 3. 1869 (1870). (Figure 2a)

Cell longer than wide ( $71 \times 45 \mu m$ ; isthmus:  $13 \mu m$ ); deep median constriction, fully enclosed central sine, trapezoidal semicell, slender, 3-lobed, interlobar incisions U-shaped open, deep; lateral lobes of an semicell separated by semi-quadrangular incisions of the lateral lobes of the other semicell, deep; polar lobe with oval sinus, margins of lobes with a closely wavy process.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: Förster (1964, 1969).

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341).

Among the taxa identified, *Euastrum abruptum* can be easily confused with *Euastrum evolutum*. This is because they share a slight resemblance in the form of their semicell, which are trapezoidal. When carefully observed, they can be distinguished by the length of their cells, *Euastrum abruptum* is larger and thinner than *Euastrum evolutum*. The lateral lobes of a semicell are separated by semi-quadrangular incisions of lateral lobes of the other semicell, and the polar lobe has an oval sinus, characteristics there are not analyzed in *Euastrum evolutum*, in which the lateral lobes do not have incisions that separate them of the lateral lobe of the other semicell, and the lobe apex has a V-shaped sinus, instead of oval.

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**Figure 2:** *Euastrum* of the Samambaia Reservoir. **Fig. 2a.** *Euastrum abruptum* Nordstedt. **Fig. 2b.** *E. dentatum* Nägeli. **Fig. 2c.** *E. denticulatum* Gay. **Fig. 2d.** *E. didelta* (Turpin) Ralfs var. *quadriceps* (Nordstedt) Krieger. **Fig. 2e.** *E. evolutum* Scott & Croasdale. **Fig. 2f.** *E. gayanum* De Toni var. *angulatum* Krieger. **Fig. 2g and 2h.** *E. gemmatum* (Brébisson) Brébisson ex Ralfs var. *gemmae* (Fig. 2h, focus on ornamental wall). **Fig. 2i.** *E. subintegrum* Nordstedt var. *brasiliense* Grönblad. **Fig. 2j.** *E. subornatum* West & Westvar. *brasiliense* Borge. Scale bar = 10 µm.

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***Euastrum bidentatum*** Nägeli, Einzelliger Algen, 1849: 122, pl. 7 D; figs 1a-f. (Figure 2b)

Cell longer than wide ( $31\text{-}34 \times 19\text{-}21 \mu\text{m}$ ; isthmus:  $4\text{-}5 \mu\text{m}$ ); deep median constriction, almost completely closed, slightly open at the ends; semi-elliptical semicell, 3-lobed, shallow interlobar incisions; lateral lobes ends with apex with slight indentations; polar lobe with deep V-shaped sinus; angular margins of the polar lobe with a closely wavy process.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First quote of species occurrence in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P1, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 1 (UFG 47324); P2, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 2 (UFG 47325); P4, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 4 (UFG 47327); P2, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 8 (UFG 47331); P5, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 21 (UFG 47344).

*Euastrum bidentatum* shows a deep incision at the apex of each of its semicells and is adorned with small projections, almost thorny, which are arranged in particular, at the contours areas of the semicell curvatures.

***Euastrum denticulatum*** Gay, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 31: 335. 1884. (Figure 2c)

Cell slightly longer than wide ( $22\text{-}29 \times 19\text{-}22 \mu\text{m}$ ; isthmus:  $5\text{-}6 \mu\text{m}$ ); deep median constriction, almost completely enclosed, slightly open at the ends; semicell semi-quadrangular, 3-lobed, interlobar incisions shallow; lateral lobes ends with a convex apex; polar lobe with a semioval deep sinus; straight apical margin of the polar lobe, and angular margins with small processes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: Felisberto & Rodrigues (2002).

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P1, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 7 (UFG 47330); P3, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 19 (UFG 47342); P5, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 21 (UFG 47344).

The taxa *Euastrum denticulatum* and *Euastrum gayanum* var. *angulatum* have cells with sizes very close and your frontal lobes exhibit slightly convex sum its thus, can easily be confused when they observed more closely. However, the semicell of *E. denticulatum* is semi-quadrangular, unlike *E. gayanum* var. *angulatum*, whose semicell is semirectangular, and the sine is fully enclosed in *E. gayanum* var. *angulatum*, whereas in *E. denticulatum* is slightly open at the edges. Still, the polar lobe has apical margin straight in *E. denticulatum*, while in *E. gayanum* var. *angulatum* is slightly wavy.

***Euastrum didelta*** (Turpin) Ralfs var. *quadriceps* (Nordstedt) Willi Krieger in Kolkwitz, Rabenh. Krypt. -Fl., ed. 2. 13(1): 520; pl. 67, fig. 8–10. 1937. (Figure 2d)

Cell much longer than wide ( $112 \times 57 \mu\text{m}$ ; isthmus:  $16 \mu\text{m}$ ); deep median constriction, almost completely enclosed, slightly open at the ends; trapezoidal semicell, almost indistinct lobes, interlobar incisions flatly concave; lateral lobes ends with a slight indentations at the apices; polar lobe with truncated apex, forming a lip; thick cell wall and adorned with punctuations.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P5, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 5 (UFG 47328).

*Euastrum didelta* var. *quadriceps* differs from the typical variety by having three protrusions well marked just above the isthmus and coarse scores in the cell wall.

***Euastrum evolutum*** (Nordstedt) West & G.S.West var. *evolutum*, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, Bot. 5: 243, 1896. (Figure 2e)

Cell longer than wide ( $49\text{-}60 \times 30\text{-}38 \mu\text{m}$ ; isthmus:  $7\text{-}12 \mu\text{m}$ ); deep median constriction, almost completely enclosed, slightly open at the ends; trapezoidal semicell, robust, 3-lobed, interlobar deep incisions, U-shaped open; lateral and polar lobes with deep recesses in the apex; polar lobe with a deep sinus, V-shaped; margins of lobes with many closely corrugated processes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P1, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 7 (UFG 47330); P2, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 8 (UFG 47331); P3, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 9 (UFG 47332); P4, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P1, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 12 (UFG 47335); P2, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 13 (UFG 47336); P3, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 14 (UFG 47337); P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341); P5, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 21 (UFG 47344).

***Euastrum gayanum*** de Toni var. *angulatum* Krieger, Desm. Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Ges. 63 (2): 37, fig. 3. 1950. (Figure 2f)

Cell slightly longer than wide ( $20\text{-}30 \times 16\text{-}25 \mu\text{m}$ ; isthmus:  $3\text{-}4 \mu\text{m}$ ); deep median constriction, fully enclosed; semirectangular semicell, 3-lobed, interlobar incisions very shallow; lateral lobes with slightly convex apices; polar lobe with flatly semioval sinus; apical margin of the polar lobe slightly wavy and angular margins with small processes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P3, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 3 (UFG 47326).

***Euastrum gemmatum*** (Brébisson) Brébisson ex Ralfs var. *gemmatum*, Brit. Desmid.: 87; pl. 14, fig. 4. 1848. (Figure 2g-h)

Cell longer than wide ( $51\text{-}54 \times 41\text{-}47 \mu\text{m}$ ; isthmus:  $10\text{-}13 \mu\text{m}$ ); deep median constriction, almost completely closed, slightly open at ends; semicircle semicell, 3-lobed, interlobar deep incisions, U-shaped open; lateral and polar lobes with deep recesses in the apices; apical margins of the lobes convex; semicell with 3 circular tumescence quite evident in the region between the frontal lobes; the lateral largest than the side, prominent, ornamented with 2 rings of rounded granules; ornamented wall with granules.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P3, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 3 (UFG 47326); P4, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 4 (UFG 47327); P4, 04/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P5, 04/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 11 (UFG 47334); P2, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 13 (UFG 47336); P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341).

***Euastrum subintegrum*** Nordstedt var. *brasiliense* Grönblad, Acta Soc. Sci. Fenn. 2(6): 14; pl. 4, fig. 69, 70. 1945. (Figure 2i)

Cell longer than wide ( $60\text{-}87 \times 47\text{-}65 \mu\text{m}$ ; isthmus:  $9\text{-}14 \mu\text{m}$ ); deep median constriction, almost completely enclosed, slightly open at the ends; trapezoidal semicell, 3-lobed, interlobar incisions deep lanceolate; lateral lobes with deep recesses in the apices; convex polar lobe; rounded angular margins; semicell with tumescence circular lateral, prominent, ornamented with 2 rings of rounded granules; smooth cell wall.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir Samambaia P3, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 9 (UFG

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47332); P4, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341).

*Euastrum subintegrum* var. *brasiliense* is differentiated from the others taxa found in the Samambaia Reservoir, by having a convex polar lobe with rounded angles and especially for presenting the semicell face with only a single central tumescence, prominent and ornate with two rings of rounded granules, which also differentiate from *Euastrum gemmatum* var. *monoculum* that displays three tumescences.

***Euastrum subornatum*** West & G.S.West var. *brasiliense*  
Borge, Ark. Bot. 1: 114; pl. 5, fig. 6. 1903. (Figure 2j)

Cell slightly longer than wide (39-49 x 35-44 µm; isthmus: 10-12 µm); deep median constriction, central linear sine, fully open, opening to the isthmus; trapezoidal semicell, 3-lobed, interlobar incisions flatly concave; lateral lobes rounded; slightly truncated polar lobe; semicell with tumescence in the midline of the lateral lobes formed by a single ring of granules; cell wall ornate with granules.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P4, 04/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P1, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 17 (UFG 47340).

The slightly truncated polar lobe, cell with linear and fully open sinus and the tumescence of semicell face with only a single ring of granules, distinguish it from the others taxa sampled.

***Micrasterias*** Agardh ex Ralfs 1848

Isolated cells to *pseudofilamentous* (*Micrasterias foliacea*), circular to elliptical, deep median constriction; semicells 3-5-lobed, with four deep incisions in the axis of the cell; polar lobe lengthy to expanded, never divided into lobules, unlike the lateral which have divisions into lobules; cell wall smooth to ornamented (Bicudo & Menezes 2006).

***Micrasterias abrupta*** West & G.S.West, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, Bot. 5: 241, pl. 14, figs. 13-16, 1896. (Figure 3a)

Cell as wide as long (51-54 x 49-52 µm; isthmus: 10-12 µm); deep median constriction, sine closed near the central isthmus and open at the ends; semioval semicell, 5-lobed; interlobular incisions basally lanceolate, open, slight between the lateral lobes and deep between the polar lobes and lateral; lateral lobes with two bifurcations, bidenticulate apices; polar lobe with an inverted deltoid, with bidenticulate angles, apical margin straight; polar lobe greater than the lateral.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P4, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 4 (UFG 47327); P5, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 5 (UFG 47328); P4, 04/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333).

*Micrasterias abrupta* and *Micrasterias truncata* var. *pusilla* are visually similar, cells are as wide as long, have a central sine closed near the isthmus and is open at the ends, but the semicell of *Micrasterias abrupta* have a semioval format and its polar lobe has an apical straight edge with bidenticulate angles, in contrast the *Micrasterias truncata* var. *pusilla* have its semicell with semi-orbicular shape and polar lobe with a convex apical margin and acuminate angles.

***Micrasterias borgei*** Krieger In Rabenhorst, Kryptogamen-Fl. Deutschl. 13(2):86, pl. 128, fig. 1-4. 1939. (Figure 3b)

Cell longer than wide (225 x 206 µm; isthmus: 32-40 µm); deep median constriction, center sine closed, slightly open at the ends; semi-elliptical semicell, 5-lobed, robust lobes; polar

lobe with incision opened a little more than half of its length; incisions between the lateral lobes opened and deep, U or V-shaped; lateral lobes with consecutive bifurcations till the apex, slightly curved denticles polar lobe with a deep sinus, apex divided into two bidenticulate divergent lobes, central denticles slenderly facing the sinus; polar lobe greater and more robust than the laterals.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P5, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 16 (UFG 47339); P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341).

***Micrasterias foliacea*** Bailey ex Ralfs var. *foliacea* Brit. Desmidieae 210, pl. 35, fig. 3. 1848. (Figure 3c)

Cell wider than long (59-69 x 90 µm; isthmus: 14-15 µm); cells forming pseudofilaments that cling to each other by the poles; deep median constriction, central sine open; semirectangular semicell, 5-lobed; open and deep interlobular incisions, misshapen; lateral lobes asymmetrically bifurcate, only one lobule near the polar lobe have an integrate apex; apical margins of the lateral lobes bidenticulate with an openly deltoid sinus; polar lobe with deep incision, semi quadratic, chamfered angles; polar lobe slightly bigger than the lateral lobes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P3, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 9 (UFG 47332); P4, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 15 (UFG 47338); P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341).

*Micrasterias foliacea* is easily distinguishable from the others taxa belonging to the *Micrasterias* genus, by their cells form pseudofilaments, which adhere to each other through their poles. An interesting feature is that only one lobule of the lateral lobes have an integrate apex, and the same is close to the polar lobe with chamfered angles.

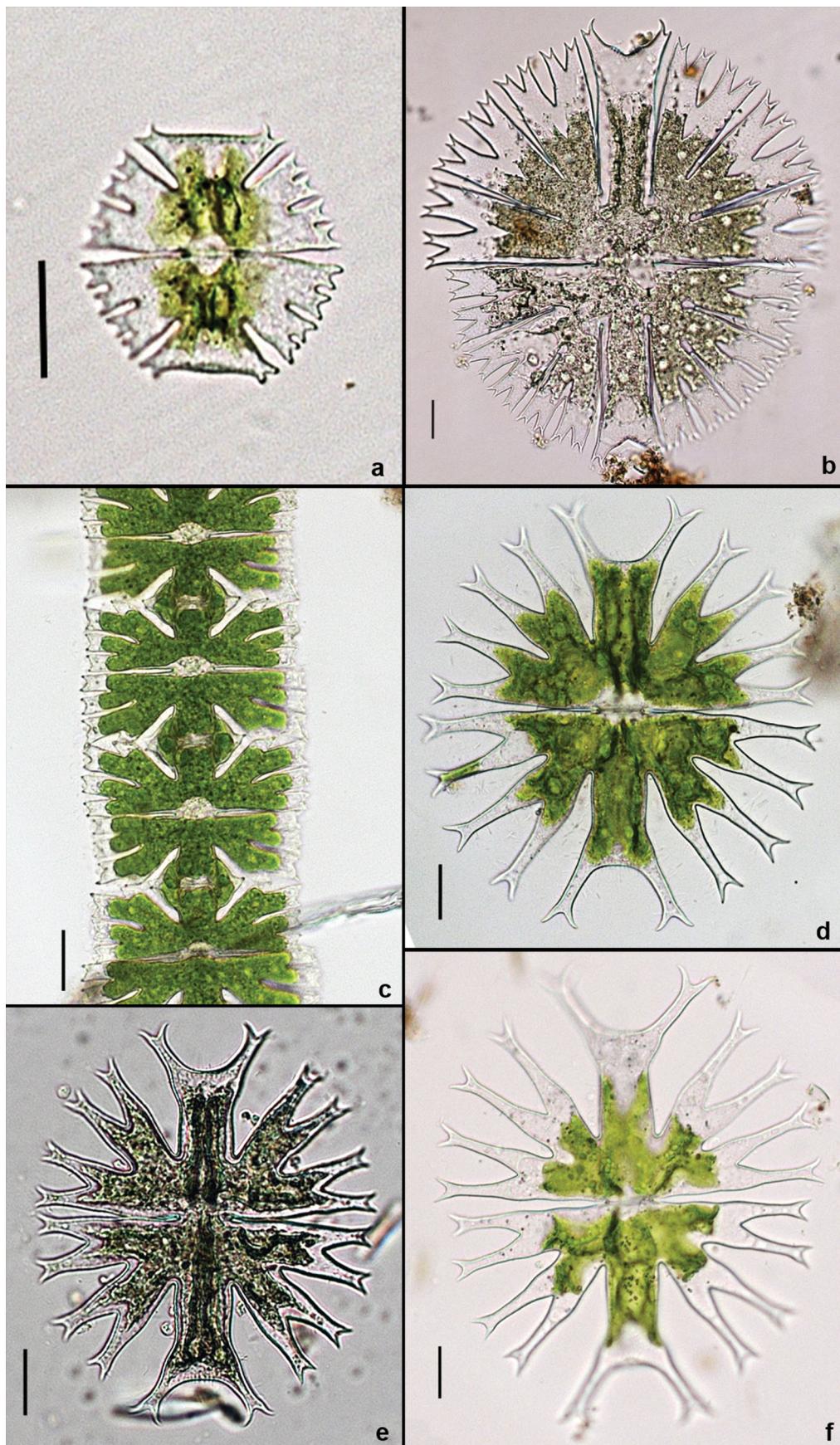
***Micrasterias furcata*** C. Agardh ex Ralfs, Desmidieae 73, pl. 9, fig. 2. 1848. (Figure 3d-f)

Cell longer than wide (126-156 x 103-124 µm; isthmus: 18-19 µm); deep median constriction, central sine closed near the isthmus and open at the ends; semi-elliptical semicell, 5-lobed, robust lobes; polar lobe with open incision a little more than half of its length; incisions between the lateral lobes opened and deep, U or V-shaped; lateral lobes with consecutive bifurcations, polar lobe with semicircular sinus, apex divided into two divergent lobules bidenticulate, slightly curved denticles; polar lobe bigger and more robust than the lateral lobes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P5, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 5 (UFG 47328); P1, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 7 (UFG 47330); P4, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P1, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 12 (UFG 47335); P2, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 13 (UFG 47336); P1, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 17 (UFG 47340); P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341); P4, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 20 (UFG 47343); P5, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 21 (UFG 47344).

Individuals of *Micrasterias furcata* that were analyzed for the Samambaia Reservoir showed some differences when compared. There was morphological variation in incisions between lobes and between the lobules, some exhibited the



**Figure 3:** *Micrasterias* of the Samambaia Reservoir. **Fig. 3a.** *Micrasterias abrupta* West & West. **Fig. 3b.** *M. borgei* Krieger. **Fig. 3c.** *M. foliacea* Bailey ex Ralfs. **Fig. 3d, 3e and 3f.** *M. furcata* Agardh ex Ralfs (Fig. 3e and 3f.: morphological expressions of the typical variety). Scale bar = 10µm.

polar lobe longest and others shorter and wider. Lateral lobes sometimes were thin, but in some cases, the lobes were more robust.

*Micrasterias laticeps* Nordstedt var. *laticeps*, Vidensk. Medd. Naturh. Foren. 1869 (14-15): 220. 1870. (Figure 4a)

Cell wider than long (109-161 x 127-190 µm; isthmus: 21-42 µm); deep median constriction, central sine closed near the isthmus and then opened; semi-orbicular semicell, 3-lobed; interlobular incisions opened and deep, V-shaped; apices of the lateral and polar lobes facing to the opening of the sine, polar lobes bigger than the lateral lobes, angles of the polar lobe acuminate and lateral lobes bidenticulate.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: Förster (1964).

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P3, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 3 (UFG 47326); P4, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 4 (UFG 47327); P5, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 5 (UFG 47328); P3, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 9 (UFG 47332).

*Micrasterias laticeps* Nordstedt var. *acuminata* Krieger, In Rabenhorst, Kryptogamen-Fl. Deutschl. 13(2):14, pl.98, fig. 2. 1939. (Figure 4b)

Cell wider than long (60-84 x 79-107 µm; isthmus: 14-16 µm); deep median constriction, center sine closed near the isthmus and then opened; semi-orbicular semicell, 3-lobed; open and deep interlobular incisions, V-shaped; apices of the lateral and polar lobes facing to the opening of the sine, polar lobe bigger than the lateral lobes, lobes with acuminate angles.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: Förster (1964).

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P5, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 11 (UFG 47334).

*Micrasterias laticeps* var. *acuminata* resembles with its typical variety, because both have the semicell with semi-orbicular format and the apices of the lateral and polar lobes are facing to the opening of the sine. But the angles of the lobes in *Micrasterias laticeps* var. *acuminata* are all acuminate, which differentiates it from your typical variety that only have the angles of the polar lobe acuminate, having the lateral lobes with angles bidenticulate.

*Micrasterias mahabuleshwarensis* J. Hobson var. *mahabuleshwarensis* Quart. Jour. Microsc. Sci. 1863: 169, fig. p.168. 1863. (Figure 4c-d)

Cell longer than wide (165 x 142 µm; isthmus: 26 µm); deep median constriction, fully open median incision, triangular, 5-lobed semicell; semi-rectangular incisions between the polar lobe and the lateral, open and deep; lateral lobes with pyramidal sinus, divergent lobules with entire apices; polar lobe with divergent processes with entire apices, apical margin of the polar lobe is straight; polar lobe of the same size as the sides; serrated cell margin.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P5, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 5 (UFG 47328).

Sampled taxa of the genus *Micrasterias* for the Samambaia Reservoir, *Micrasterias mahabuleshwarensis* is the one cell that displays serrated margin. This taxon also shows the polar lobe sharply projected beyond the side lobes and intra-marginal spines throughout the cell.

*Micrasterias pinnatifida* (Kützing) ex Ralfs, Brit. Desm., 77. Pl. 10, fig. 3. 1848. (Figure 4e)

Cell wider than long (51-66 x 59-66 µm; isthmus: 11-18 µm); deep median constriction, center sine closed near the isthmus and then open; trapezoidal semicell, 3-lobed, interlobar and deep incisions open, U-shaped; polar lobes and lateral with bidenticulate angles, polar lobes smaller than the lateral lobes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P1, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 1 (UFG 47324); P3, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 3 (UFG 47326); P4, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 4 (UFG 47327); P5, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 5 (UFG 47328); P1, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 7 (UFG 47330); P2, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 8 (UFG 4731); P3, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 9 (UFG 47332); P4, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P5, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 11 (UFG 47334); P1, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 12 (UFG 47335); P1, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 17 (UFG 47340); P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341); P5, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 21 (UFG 47344).

*Micrasterias radiosa* Ralfs var. *radiosa* Brit. Desm: 72. pl. 8, fig. 3. 1848. (Figure 4f)

Cell as long as wide (111-126 x 105-129 µm; isthmus: 13-16 µm); deep median constriction, central sine almost entirely closed, open only at the ends; semicircular semicell, 5-lobed; polar lobe with linear incision until near of the isthmus; misshapen incisions, slightly open and deep between the polar lobes; lateral lobes with consecutive bifurcations; polar lobe with sinus V-shaped, apex divided into two divergent lobules bidenticulate, polar lobe with the same size as the lateral lobes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P1, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 1 (UFG 47324); P4, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P5, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 11 (UFG 47334).

*Micrasterias radiosa* Ralfs var. *elegantior* (G.S.West) Croasdale In Prescott et al. Syn. N. Amer. Desm. 2(2): 181, pl. 132, fig. 2-4. 1977. (Figure 5a)

Cell as long as wide (145-150 x 148-149 µm; isthmus: 17-20 µm); deep median constriction, central sine fully opened; semicircular semicell, 5-lobed, slender lobes; polar lobe with open incision until near the isthmus; misshapen incisions, open and deep between the lateral lobes; lateral lobes with consecutive bifurcations, polar lobe with deltoid sinus, apex divided into two divergent lobules, bidenticulate; polar lobe with the same size lateral lobes.

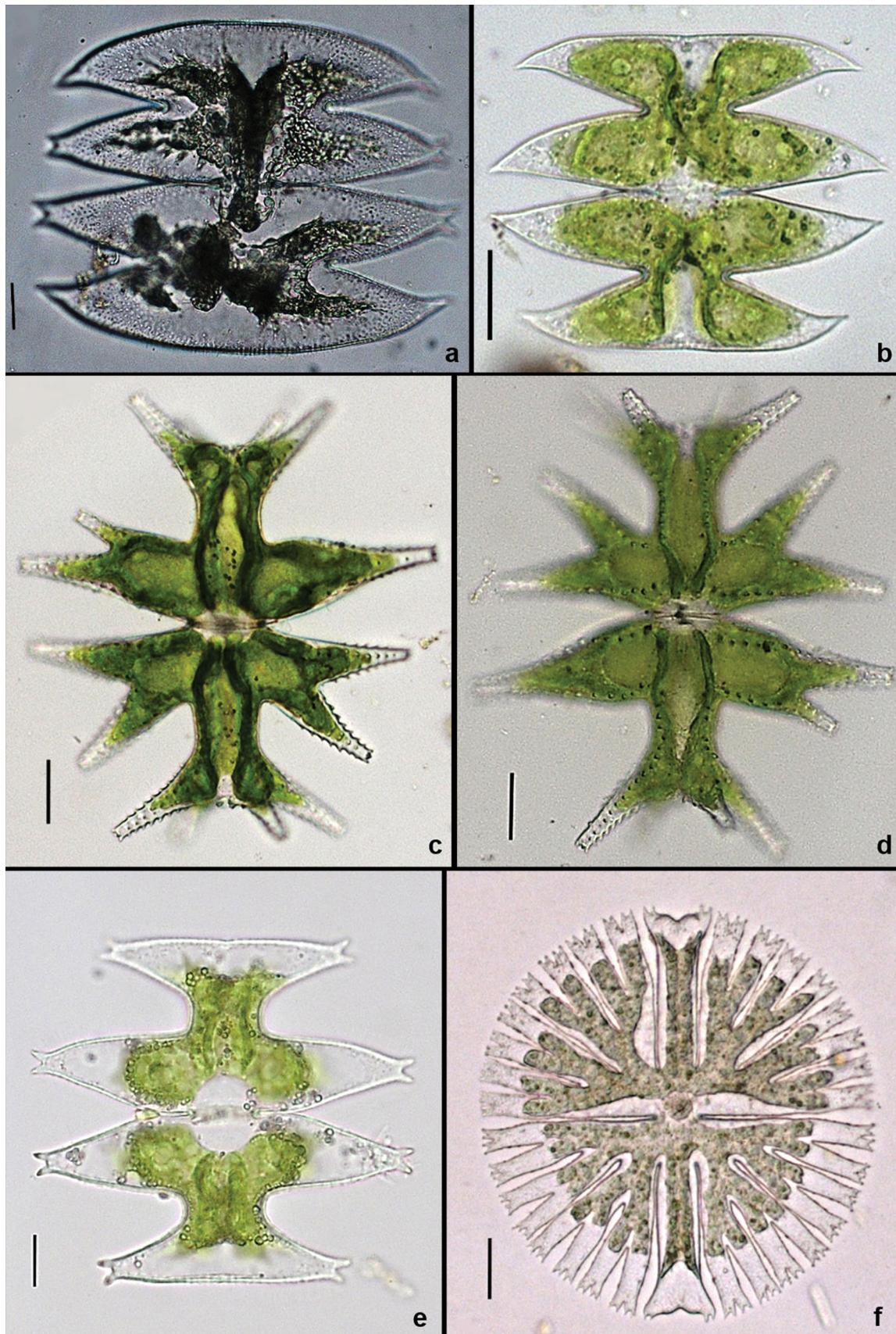
Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P4, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333).

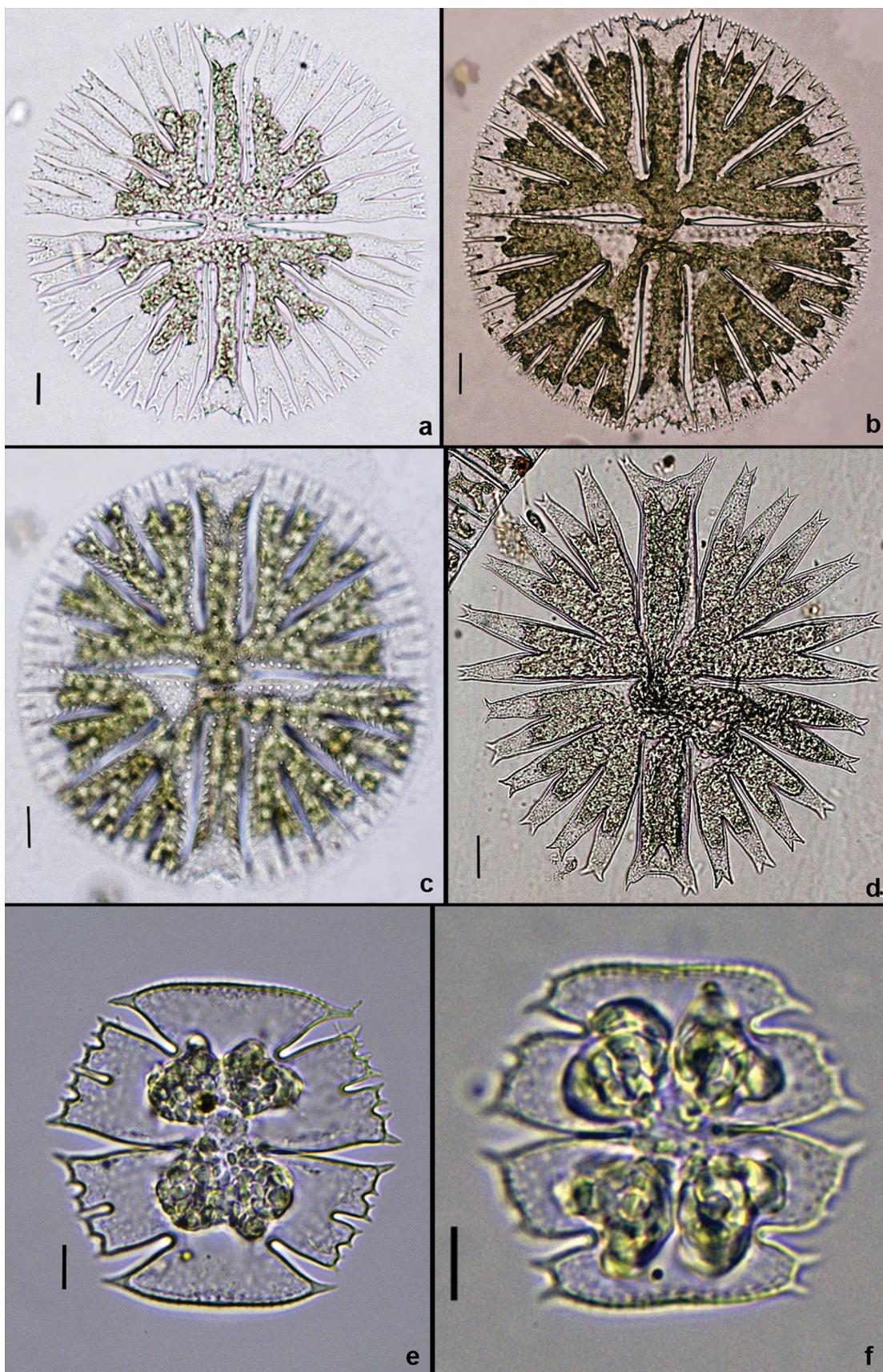
Three taxa within the genus *Micrasterias* are very similar, *Micrasterias radiosa* var. *elegantior*, *Micrasterias radiosa* var. *radiosa* and *Micrasterias radiosa* var. *ornata*, having cells as wide as long and 5-lobed. In *M. radiosa* var. *elegantior* and *M. radiosa* var. *radiosa* the semicell have semicircular shape, already in *M. radiosa* var. *ornata*, the semicell displays the semi-orbicular format, lobes are more robust, when compared with the others two, and their cell wall is studded with large thorns, feature that specifies like *ornata*.

*Micrasterias radiosa* Ralfs var. *ornata* Nordstedt, Vidensk. Meddrdansk naturh. Foren. (14-15): 223, pl. 2, fig. 11. 1870. (Figure 5b-c)

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**Figure 4:** *Micrasterias* of the Samambaia Reservoir. **Fig. 4a.** *Micrasterias laticeps* Nordstedt var. *laticeps*. **Fig. 4b.** *M. laticeps* Nordstedt var. *acuminata* Krieger. **Fig. 4c and 4d.** *M. mahabuleshwarensis* J. Hobson var. *mahabuleshwarensis* (Fig. 4d.: focus on ornamentation of the cell wall). **Fig. 4e.** *Micrasterias pinnatifida* (Kützing) Ralfs. **Fig. 4f.** *M. radiosoides* Ralfs var. *radiosa*. Scale bar = 10 µm.

Euastrum and *Micrasterias* in lentic ecosystem

**Figure 5:** *Micrasterias* of the Samambaia Reservoir. **Fig. 5a.** *M. radiososa* Ralfs var. *elegantior* (G. S. West) Croasdale. **Fig. 5b and 5c.** *M. radiososa* Ralfs var. *ornata* Nordstedt (Fig. 5c: focus on ornamentation of the cell wall). **Fig. 5d.** *M. torreyi* Bailey ex Ralfs var. *nordstedtiana* (Hieronymus) Schmidle. **Fig. 5e and 5f.** *M. truncata* (Corda) Brébisson ex Ralfs var. *pusilla* G. S. West (Fig. 5f.: morphological expression). Scale bar = 10 µm.

**Table 1.** Frequency of occurrence of the species found in the sampling points of the Samambaia Reservoir in both study periods (C: rain, S: dry, SC: dry and rain, \*: absence of species, R: rare, Cm: common and Cs: constant). Freq. = Frequency in %.

Taxa	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	Freq.
<i>Euastrum abruptum</i> Nordstedt	*	C	*	*	*	1 R
<i>E. bidentatum</i> Nägeli	S	S	*	S	C	5 R
<i>E. denticulatum</i> Gay	S	*	C	*	C	3 R
<i>E. didelta</i> (Turpin) Ralfs var. <i>quadriceps</i> (Nordstedt) Krieger	*	*	*	*	S	1 R
<i>E. evolutum</i> (Nordstedt) West & G.S.West var. <i>evolutum</i>	SC	SC	SC	S	C	13 Cm
<i>E. gayanum</i> De Toni var. <i>angulatum</i> Krieger	*	*	S	*	*	1 R
<i>E. gemmatum</i> (Brébisson) Brébisson ex Ralfs var. <i>gemmatum</i>	*	C	S	S	S	6 R
<i>E. subintegrum</i> Nordstedt var. <i>brasiliense</i> Grönblad	*	C	C	C	*	4 R
<i>E. subornatum</i> West & G.S.West var. <i>brasiliense</i> Borge	C	*	*	S	*	2 R
<i>Micrasterias abrupta</i> West & G.S.West	*	*	*	S	S	3 R
<i>M. borgei</i> Krieger	*	C	*	*	C	2 R
<i>Micrasterias foliacea</i> Bailey ex Ralfs var. <i>foliacea</i>	*	C	S	C	*	17 Cm
<i>M. furcata</i> C. Agardh ex Ralfs	SC	C	*	SC	SC	10 R
<i>M. laticeps</i> Nordstedt var. <i>laticeps</i>	*	*	S	S	S	3 R
<i>M. laticeps</i> Nordstedt var. <i>acuminata</i> Krieger	*	*	*	*	S	1 R
<i>Micrasterias mahabuleshwarensis</i> J. Hobson var. <i>mahabuleshwarensis</i>	*	*	*	*	S	1 R
<i>M. pinnatifida</i> (Kützing) ex Ralfs	SC	SC	S	S	SC	15 Cm
<i>M. radiosa</i> Ralfs var. <i>radiosa</i>	S	*	*	S	S	3 R
<i>M. radiosa</i> Ralfs var. <i>elegantior</i> (G. S. West) Croasdale	*	*	*	S	*	2 R
<i>M. radiosa</i> Ralfs var. <i>ornata</i> Nordstedt	*	*	S	S	*	2 R
<i>M. torreyi</i> Bailey ex Ralfs var. <i>nordstedtiana</i> (Hieronymus) Schmidle	*	C	*	*	*	2 R
<i>M. truncata</i> (Corda) Brébisson ex Ralfs var. <i>pusilla</i> G. S. West	*	*	SC	S	C	5 R

Cell as long as wide (188-227 x 175-216 µm; isthmus: 23-27 µm); deep median constriction, central sine slightly closed, open at the ends; semi-orbicular semicell, 5-lobed, lobes robust compared to the *elegantior* variety; polar lobe with open incision until near the isthmus; misshapen incisions, opened and deep incisions between the lateral lobes; lateral lobes with consecutive bifurcations, polar lobe with sinus V-shaped, apex divided into two bidenticulate divergent lobules; polar lobe with the same size of the lateral lobes; cell wall ornate with big thorns.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First citation of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P3, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 9 (UFG 47332); P4, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333).

*Micrasterias torreyi* Bailey ex Ralfs var. *nordstedtiana* (Hieronymus) Schmidle, Bot. Jahrb. 26(1-2): 48. 1898. (Figure 5d)

Cell as long as wide (229 x 220 µm; isthmus: 32 µm); deep median constriction, central sine closed near the isthmus and just slightly open at the ends; semicircular semicell, 5-lobed; robust lobes, contour rounded; polar lobe with linear incision until near the isthmus, opened in the ends; opened and deep incisions between the lateral lobes, V-shaped; lateral and polar lobes bifurcated, lobules bidenticulate, divergent lobules in polar lobe; polar lobe with the same size as the lateral lobes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: First quote of occurrence of species in the Goiás State.

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P2, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 18 (UFG 47341).

For Brazil, the species is cited in other works, but in any of them, there is no illustration or description of the material found (Bicudo & Sormus 1982). Therefore, we can consider this study as the first record of apparel for *Micrasterias torreyi* var. *nordstedtiana* for Goiás.

*Micrasterias truncata* (Corda) Brébisson ex Ralfs var. *pusilla* G.S. West, Mém. Soc. Neuchât. Sci. Nat. 5: 1035. pl. 22, fig. 42-43. 1914. (Figure 5e-f)

Cell as wide as long (33-53 x 33-58 µm; isthmus; 11-12 µm); deep median constriction, center sine closed near the isthmus and open at; semi-orbicular semicell, 5-lobed; opened interlobular incisions, basally lanceolate, slight between the lateral lobes and deep between the polar and lateral lobes; lateral lobes bifurcated, bidenticulate apices; inverted deltoid polar lobe with acuminated angles, convex apical margin of the polar lobe; polar lobe wider than the lateral lobes.

Geographical distribution in the State of Goiás: Felisberto & Rodrigues (2002).

Material selected: BRAZIL. GOIÁS: Goiânia, Samambaia Reservoir P3, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 3 (UFG 47326); P4, 24/IX/2010, Felisberto et al. 4 (UFG 47327); P4, 04/XI/2010, Felisberto et al. 10 (UFG 47333); P1, 06/I/2011, Felisberto et al. 12 (UFG 47335); P3, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 19 (UFG 47342); P5, 01/III/2011, Felisberto et al. 21 (UFG 47344).

Regarding the frequency of occurrence of taxa in the sampled points, we have noticed that most were framed in rare (19) and only three common taxa (Table 1). Regarding the presence and absence of taxa analyzed in the sampling stations, of the 22 taxa identified, 7 were recorded at point P1, 10 on points P2 and P3, with the highest number of taxa (14) the points P4 and P5. It was observed that only two taxa appeared at all points: *Euastrum evolutum* (Nordstedt) West & G.S.West var. *evolutum* e *Micrasterias pinnatifida* (Kützing) ex Ralfs.

In relation to the exclusivity period, nine taxa were recorded for the dry period (*Euastrum didelta* var. *quadriceps*, *E. gayanum* var. *angulatum*, *Micrasterias abrupta*, *M. laticeps* var. *laticeps*, *M. laticeps* var. *acuminata*, *M. mahabuleshwarensis* var. *mahabuleshwarensis*, *M. radiosa* var. *radiosa*, *M. radiosa* var. *elegantior* and *M. radiosa* var. *ornata*), while four taxa

were found only in the rainy season (*Euastrum abruptum*, *E. subintegrum* var. *brasiliense*, *Micrasterias borgei* and *M. torrey* var. *nordstedtiana*), as shown in Table 1.

According to Miller et al. (1992), the supply of nutrients to light availability may have a strong impact on communities of algae. Thus, one possible explanation for greater richness in the dry season maybe related to increased stability of the water column and macrophytes (mainly in the marginal region) due to lack of rainfall and consequently lower values of turbidity and higher incidence of light on the body of water.

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