

## Tree and shrub species of the Atlantic Forest on the slopes of Marambaia Island, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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**Abstract:** This study describes the tree and shrub component of the Atlantic Forest on the slopes of Marambaia Island, RJ. It further evaluates which species are found at threatened species lists and the similarity that the studied forest component has with other nearby locations with similar vegetation. Data gathering relied on the joint effort of arbitrary walks and sampling units known as Transect. The same sampling criterion was applied at both approaches (DBH greater than or equal to 5 cm). A similarity analysis, followed by a Cluster analysis, was used to compare the studied vegetation component. Similarity calculations were based in the Bray-Curtis coefficient. We detected a total of 235 species. These are divided in 134 genera and 52 families. The richest families are Myrtaceae (38 spp.), Fabaceae (20 spp.) and Rubiaceae (20 spp.). The richest genera are *Eugenia* (16 spp.), *Myrcia* (8 spp.) and *Ocotea* (6 spp.). Nineteen of the detected species are currently listed as threatened and the studied forest component is mostly resembled to the vegetation at Rio Bonito (RJ). Our evidence shows that the evaluated tree and shrub layer seems to be well preserved and represents an important area for conservational efforts. The results additionally indicate that this vegetation seems to have a greater floristic resemblance to drier and further locations, rather than to more humid and close ones.

**Keywords:** dense ombrophilous forest, floristic, species richness, similarity, phytogeography.

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**Resumo:** Este estudo descreve a florística do componente arbóreo e arbustivo da Floresta Atlântica sobre as encostas da Ilha da Marambaia, RJ. Também são avaliadas quais das espécies encontradas constam em listas de espécies ameaçadas e qual a semelhança deste componente da vegetação com locais próximos cobertos pelo mesmo tipo de vegetação. A coleta de dados se valeu do esforço conjunto de caminhadas arbitrárias e de unidades amostrais conhecidas como “Transect”. O critério de inclusão na amostragem foi o mesmo para ambos os métodos (DAP igual ou maior a 5 cm). O componente estudado foi comparado a outras áreas através de uma análise de similaridade, seguida de um dendrograma. Os cálculos de similaridade foram baseados no coeficiente de Bray-Curtis. Detectamos, ao todo, 235 espécies, distribuídas em 134 gêneros e 52 famílias. As famílias mais ricas são Myrtaceae (38 spp.), Fabaceae (20 spp.) e Rubiaceae (20 spp.), enquanto os gêneros mais ricos são *Eugenia* (16 spp.), *Myrcia* (8 spp.) e *Ocotea* (6 spp.). Dezenove das espécies detectadas constam em listas de espécies ameaçadas de extinção e o componente estudado tem maior similaridade com a floresta em Rio Bonito (RJ). As

evidências mostram que a vegetação estudada parece estar bem preservada e representa uma área importante para esforços conservacionistas. Os resultados indicam ainda que o remanescente florestal em questão aparenta ser mais semelhante a locais mais secos e distantes do que próximos e úmidos.

**Palavras-chave:** floresta ombrófila densa, florística, riqueza de espécies, similaridade, fitogeografia.

## Introduction

The Atlantic Forest is one of the world's most threatened tropical biomes (Conservation... 2011). Such status comes as a result from the continuous exploitation during various agricultural cycles and expansion of croplands (Dean 1996, Câmara & Coimbra-Filho 2000, Tonhasca Junior 2005). As an outcome of ongoing human activities and deforestation, an increasing number of isolated forest fragments are created. This process compromises the forest's natural dynamic, avoids the survival of many species and contributes to the segregation of many animal and plant populations. Consequently, genetic flow between individuals is hampered and biological diversity reduced both locally and regionally (Primack & Rodrigues 2001, Rocha et al. 2006). Floristic studies of these forest fragments are a way of providing important information regarding the vegetation's current conservation status and ecological role. These studies have enabled the detection of interesting phytogeography patterns, priority species for conservation, relevant restoration actions and other significant trends regarding Atlantic Forest remnants (Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000, Fundação... & Instituto... 2002, Rambaldi et al. 2003, Nettesheim et al. 2010).

Two defining characteristics of the Atlantic Forest are its high plant species diversity and endemism levels (Murray-Smith et al. 2009, Conservation... 2011). Though not conclusive, many recent studies linked this floristic variation to the broad latitudinal and altitudinal range that this forest covers (Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000, Scudeller et al. 2001, Oliveira-Filho et al. 2005, Caiafa & Martins 2010, Nettesheim et al. 2010). Such reasoning is coherent with the existence of different forest types and associated ecosystems identified among the environmentally heterogeneous landscape within the Atlantic Forest (Veloso et al. 1991, Scarano 2002, Tonhasca Junior 2005).

Most of the Atlantic Forest plant species diversity and endemism known is found in fairly large and contiguous preserved areas of Dense Ombrophilous Forest (Veloso et al. 1991, Murray-Smith et al. 2009). In Rio de Janeiro state, the most important Atlantic Forest remnants cover the Serra do Mar mountain range and the better preserved vegetation is mainly present at its southern extension (Fundação... & Instituto... 2002, Rambaldi et al. 2003). Apparently, the tree and shrub flora variation from Rio de Janeiro southern region to its center becomes greater once Serra do Mar starts to get further from the ocean (Nettesheim et al. 2010). This topographic differentiation seems to determine a clear floristic distinction among remnants over Serra do Mar mountain range and over the plain landscape in front of it, known as the Guanabara Graben (grabens are linear terrain depressions at regions that endure tensional tectonic forces – Guerra & Guerra 1997). This topographic and floristic pattern can be found at Mangaratiba Environmental Protection Area, a protected area that covers close to 22618 ha. This conservation unit withholds contiguous continental forest areas as well as several islands at Sepetiba Bay (Rambaldi et al. 2003). Marambaia Island is one of these islands. It is composed by a low mountain area and a sandy stretch with 47 km of length. While the mountain area marks the entrance of Sepetiba Bay and is covered by Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest (*sensu* Veloso et al. 1991), the plain area reaches the continent and is covered by well-preserved coastal dune vegetation (Menezes et al. 2005).

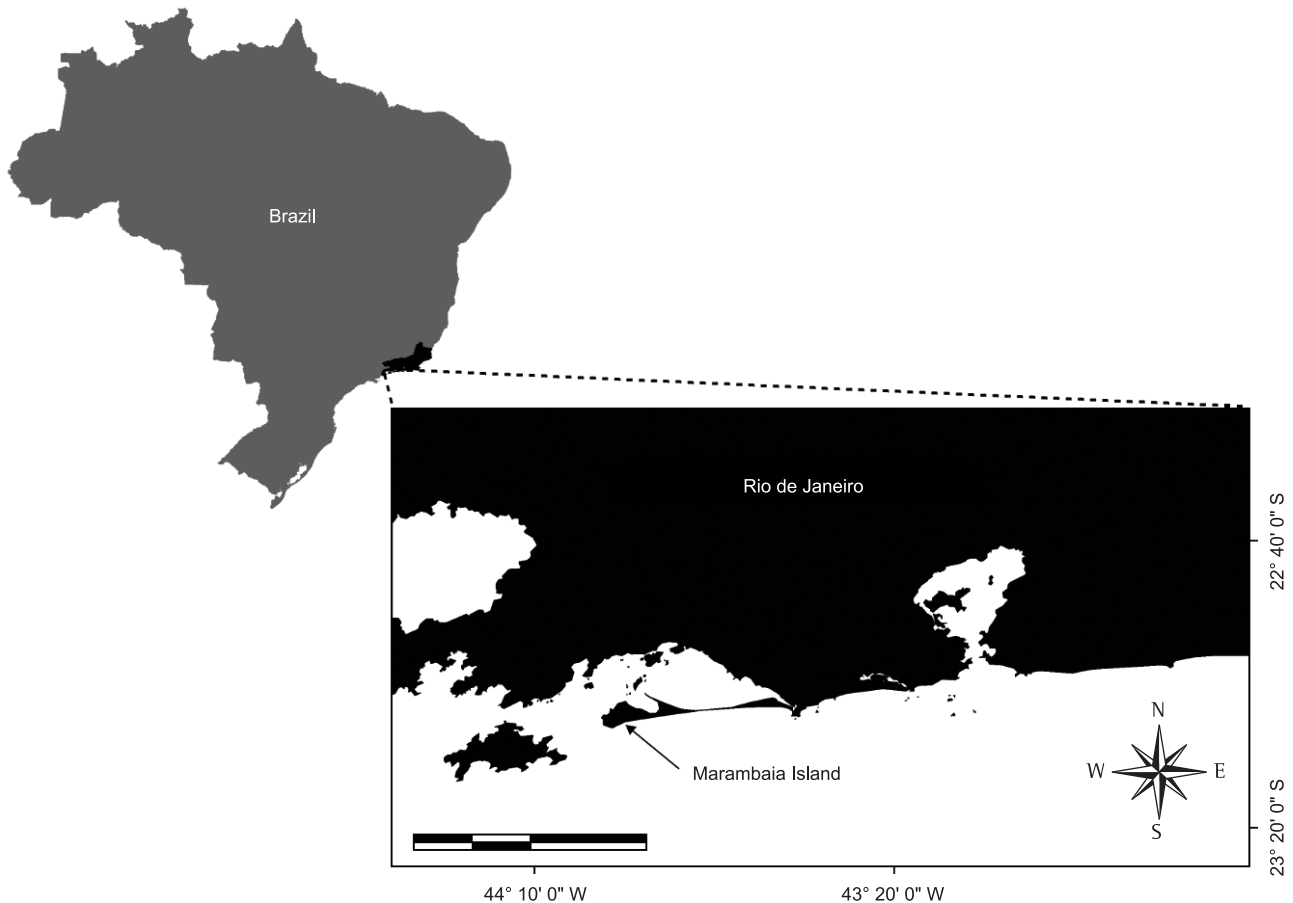
A recent study showed, through a Cluster analysis, that Marambaia Island Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest (here treated as slope forest) seems to be more similar and grouped together to other areas on the slopes of Serra do Mar (Nettesheim et al. 2010). However, the same effort calls attention to the fact that such pattern was not so clear when the data was evaluated with a different analysis. According to the Canonical Correspondence Analysis, Marambaia Island slope forest seems to be more similar to hotter, lower and drier areas at Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Graben (Nettesheim et al. 2010). These authors suggest that further evaluations taking into account abundance data about areas withholding the same forest type as Marambaia Island could help to clear up such discrepancies.

The floristic composition of Marambaia Island forest has already been studied (Conde et al. 2005). However, this assessment didn't focus neither on describing a specific community layer nor on elucidating any phytogeography patterns. Therefore, the present survey aims at further describing the Marambaia Island slope forest tree and shrub layer composition and determining to which slope forest locations within Serra do Mar and Guanabara Graben (Almeida & Carneiro 1998) in Rio de Janeiro and Northern São Paulo it mostly resembles. In order to do that the present effort is guided by the following questions: (1) How many families, genera and species of trees and shrubs can there be detected in this slope forest? (2) What are the richest families and are they consistent with other nearby Atlantic Forest locations? (3) Are there threatened species? (4) When compared (based on species abundance data) to nearby slope forest studies, Marambaia Island slope forest is more resembled to areas at Serra do Mar mountain range or at the Guanabara Graben?

## Methods

**Study area** – The study site is located in Sepetiba Bay, Mangaratiba municipality, in Southern Rio de Janeiro state (23° 04' S and 43° 53' W – Figure 1). The mountainous area soil lies over a gneiss crystalline basement terrain (Souza et al. 2005). According to the Brazilian Soil Classification System (Embrapa 2006) the soil is an association of Ultissol, Inceptisol and Entissol. The highest point at the area reaches an altitude of 641 m (Góes et al. 2005). The climate at Marambaia Island is rainy tropical. Mean monthly temperatures are over 20 °C and the annual mean is 23.7 °C. Mean annual precipitation is 1239.7 mm, 37% restricted to the summer months (rainiest season) and 15% to the winter months (driest season – Mattos 2005). Although nowadays the vegetation of Marambaia represents an important Atlantic Forest remnant, it sustained past anthropic interventions. The presence of the Brazilian Navy in the area as of the 1970's, together with its geographic isolation, guaranteed the conservation of the site during this period (Pereira et al. 1990, Conde et al. 2005, D.F. Silva, unpublished data).

**Data sampling** – This activity took place from January 2004 to January 2010 and relied on both a quantitative (transect method – Gentry 1982) and a qualitative approach (arbitrary walks through the area). Floristic composition presented here is the sum of the information provided by these methods. The same sampling criterion was adopted for both approaches, including trees and shrubs with diameter at breast height (dbh) equal to or greater than 5 cm.



**Figure 1.** Location of Marambaia Island at southern Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil.

Besides the dbh restriction, only fertile individuals were included in the qualitative approach. Quantitative data was gathered at 40 sampling units, each unit with  $2 \times 50$  m ( $100$  m<sup>2</sup>). The sampling units were established arbitrarily in altitudes varying from 50 to 500 m, covering a total area of  $4000$  m<sup>2</sup> ( $0.4$  ha). Specimens of each species were collected to confirm their identity and deposited in Rio de Janeiro Federal Rural University Botany Department's Herbarium (RBR). The present effort species nomenclature follows APG III (Angiosperm... 2009). Species names and authors were checked at the Brazilian Flora Species List (*in* <http://floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br/2011>) and at the International Plant Name Index site (*in* <http://www.ipni.org/ipni/plantnamesearchpage.do>).

*Data evaluation and analysis* – To determine if the richest families found at this effort are consistent with other nearby areas, we compared it with 20 Atlantic Forest studies (Table 1) at Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo states. For this comparison we emphasized forest areas at Serra do Mar mountain range and at the Guanabara Graben (Almeida & Carneiro 1998, Nettesheim et al. 2010).

To assess if any of the detected species is considered threatened we relied on two widely adopted endangered species lists. One was the Brazilian Environmental Ministry (MMA) list and the other was the Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Given that the criteria adopted to determine species conservation status varies according to the organization that develops the list, the same species may be considered endangered in one but not the other.

Six of the 20 Atlantic Forest studies initially gathered were chosen to be included in the similarity analysis. Only these studies met the criteria of providing species abundance data regarding a forest type

equal and close to the one found at Marambaia Island. Five were developed in Rio de Janeiro state and one in São Paulo (Table 2). However, it's important to note that one of the five studies from Rio de Janeiro state (at Tinguá Biological Reserve – REBIO Tinguá) seems to have been carried out at about 650 to 900 m of altitude, which would classify this forest as Montane Ombrophilous Forest (Rodrigues 1996). Still, we decided on keeping it in the analysis due to the following reasons: the work doesn't give a clear description of where samples were taken from (no coordinates); the altitude of 600 m that should define the distinction between Submontane and Montane Atlantic Forest is, though generally accepted by scientists, rather arbitrary; a good deal of REBIO Tinguá is a preserved Submontane Ombrophilous Forest; and excluding this information from the analysis would decrease even more the number of available efforts that supply quality species abundance data from near Marambaia Island. We also recognize that the compared studies relied in different sampling strategies. Nevertheless, although results must be interpreted with caution, we believe evaluating questions with abundance data may help to detect patterns that could go by unnoticed with presence/absence data.

With the information present in these six studies and the present effort, we assembled a Q matrix based on the abundance of each species within each location. Species not identified to specific level and synonyms were excluded of the data. We decided on keeping in the analysis species that occurred only once at any of the seven areas and that were represented by less than five individuals. This was made because we also ran the cluster analysis subtracting these “unwanted” species and the pattern found was the same as if they were kept in the

**Table 1.** Atlantic Forest study sites used to compare the richest families with the present effort.

Study area	Reference	Forest type
Campos dos Goytacazes – RJ	Carvalho et al. (2006a)	Low land Semideciduous Seasonal Forest
Mata do Carvão – RJ	Silva & Nascimento (2001)	Low land Semideciduous Seasonal Forest
Serra da Capoeira Grande – RJ	Peixoto et al. (2004)	Low land Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Poço das Antas baixada – RJ	Guedes-Bruni et al. (2006a)	Low land Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Região do Imbé – RJ	Moreno et al. (2003)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Praia do Sul, Ilha Grande – RJ	Oliveira (2002)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Imbaú – RJ	Carvalho et al. (2006b)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Represa de Ribeirão das Lages – RJ	Peixoto et al. (1995)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Poço das Antas morrote – RJ	Guedes-Bruni et al. (2006b)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Cachoeiras de Macacu – RJ	Kurtz & Araujo (2000)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Maçico da Tijuca – RJ	Oliveira et al. (1995)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Rio Bonito – RJ	Carvalho et al. (2007)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Juréia – Itatins – SP	Mamede et al. (2004)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Peruíbe – SP	Oliveira et al. (2001)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Picinguaba – SP	Sanchez et al. (1999)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Ubatuba – SP	Silva & Leitão Filho (1982)	Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Pindamonhangaba – SP	Gomes et al. (2005)	Montane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Macaé de Cima secundária – RJ	Pessoa et al. (1997)	Montane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Macaé de Cima preservada – RJ	Guedes-Bruni et al. (1997)	Montane Dense Ombrophilous Forest
Reserva Biológica Tinguá – RJ	Rodrigues (1996)	Montane Dense Ombrophilous Forest

**Table 2.** Methodological and environmental characteristics of the Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forests areas evaluated in the similarity analysis. Alt. – predominant sampling altitude (m.); Precip. – mean annual precipitation (mm); Temp. – mean annual temperature (°C); Met. – study methodology (P = plot, T = transect, PQ = quadrant point); Crit. – sampling inclusion criterion (DBH in cm); Bs. Ar. – total sampled basal area (m<sup>2</sup>.ha<sup>-1</sup>); Area – total sampled area (m<sup>2</sup> – plots and transects methods) or number of points (quadrant point method); Abd. – total sampled abundance; S – total number of sampled species.

Code	Study area	Alt.	Precip.	Temp.	Met.	Crit.	Bs. Ar.	Area	Abd.	S
UBA, SP	Ubatuba <sup>1</sup>	120	2448	22.6	PQ	≥ 10	----	160	640	123
IGR, RJ	Praia do Sul, Ilha Grande <sup>2</sup>	165	1975	22.5	P	≥ 2.5	57.90	7800	2332	236
PAM, RJ	Poço das Antas morrote <sup>3</sup>	115	2118	24.5	P	≥ 5	25.59	10000	580	174
PAR, RJ	Cachoeiras de Macacu <sup>4</sup>	200	2558	23.0	PQ	≥ 5	57.30	150	592	138
RBT, RJ	Rio Bonito <sup>5</sup>	100	1750	26.0	P	≥ 5	29.00	4000	776	106
TIN, RJ	Reserva Biológica Tinguá <sup>6</sup>	650	2099	21.6	PQ	≥ 2.5	----	200	800	189
IMA, RJ	Ilha da Marambaia <sup>7</sup>	130	1239	23.7	T	≥ 5	55.68	4000	941	169

<sup>1</sup>Silva & Leitão Filho (1982); <sup>2</sup>Oliveira (2002); <sup>3</sup>Guedes-Bruni et al. (2006b); <sup>4</sup>Kurtz & Araujo (2000); <sup>5</sup>Carvalho et al. (2007); <sup>6</sup>Rodrigues (1996); <sup>7</sup>this study.

analysis (with a slight increase of the similarity values). Besides, we understand that rare species are common in the Atlantic Forest and may provide important clues about floristic differentiation patterns. Therefore, the final matrix listed the abundance of 528 species distributed at seven different slope forest locations. This matrix was standardized dividing the species abundance value recorded in each location by the total abundance recorded in that location. Following matrix standardization we calculated a similarity matrix between each pair of evaluated areas based on the Bray-Curtis coefficient distance measure. Once Bray-Curtis is a dissimilarity measure, we subtracted the resulting dissimilarity values from 1 in order to determine the areas similarities. Then we used these Bray-Curtis similarity values to build a similarity dendrogram synthesizing the relationship among the compared locations. The dendrogram was elaborated using the Unweighted Pair Group with Arithmetic Mean – UPGMA – clustering method (McCune & Grace 2002, Gotelli & Ellison 2004).

## Results

A total of 235 species were detected. These are distributed in 134 genera and 52 families (Table 3). Eighteen families (34.6%)

and 113 genera (84.3%) are represented by only one species. The richest families are Myrtaceae (38 spp.), Fabaceae (20 spp.), Rubiaceae (20 spp.), Lauraceae (14 spp.), Sapotaceae (12 spp.) and Euphorbiaceae (11 spp.). The most expressive genera are *Eugenia* (16 spp.), *Myrcia* (8 spp.), *Ocotea* (6 spp.), *Ficus* (6 spp.), *Inga* and *Psychotria* (5 spp.).

Nineteen of the 235 detected species (about 8%) are included on threatened species lists (Table 3). Sixteen of them appear at the IUCN Red List (International... 2010) and the other three at the Brazilian Environmental Ministry list (Brasil 2008). Sapotaceae is the family with the greatest number of species (5) at the threatened species lists considered.

The plant community at this study has greater floristic similarity (20.2%) with the slope forest in Rio Bonito (RJ – Table 4). This resemblance is the second highest found by the analysis, after Rio Bonito and Poço das Antas (RJ), with 21.6%. On the other hand, Marambaia slope forest is least resembled to Ubatuba (SP – 8,3%). The lowest value of similarity was found between Rio Bonito and Ilha Grande (3.4%). When the similarity information regarding the areas was summarized by the Cluster, it was possible to distinguish three groups (Figure 2): the first one formed by Ubatuba and Ilha



**Table 3.** Tree and shrub species from Marambaia slope forest. Voucher – specimen collector and researcher sample number. Species sampled qualitatively are preceded by an asterisk. Threatened species are identified by its conservation status in superscript and bold: LR1 – low risk, least concern; LR2 – low risk, conservation dependent; V – vulnerable; E – endangered (according to IUCN Red List status) or DD – deficient data; TE – threatened with extinction (according to Brazilian Environmental Ministry status).

Family/species	Voucher
<b>ANACARDIACEAE</b>	
<i>Astronium graveolens</i> Jacq.	M.S. Conde 646
<i>Tapirira guianensis</i> Aubl.	D. Araujo 10542
<b>ANNONACEAE</b>	
* <i>Anaxagorea dolichocarpa</i> Sandwith & Sandwith	F.C. Nettesheim 18
<i>Guateria candolleana</i> Schlttdl.	F.C. Nettesheim 177
<i>Guateria</i> cf. <i>villosissima</i> A.St.-Hil.	F.C. Nettesheim 127
* <i>Xylopia brasiliensis</i> Spreng.	H.P. Lima 347
<i>Xylopia langsdorffiana</i> A.St.-Hil. & Tul.	F.C. Nettesheim 225
<i>Xylopia sericea</i> A.St.-Hil.	M.S. Conde 476
<b>APOCYNACEAE</b>	
<i>Aspidosperma pyricollum</i> Müll. Arg.	H.F. Baylão 87
<i>Malouetia cestroides</i> (Nees ex Mart.) Müll.Arg.	F.C. Nettesheim 140
<i>Tabernaemontana laeta</i> Mart.	G.M. Siqueira 25
<b>AQUIFOLIACEAE</b>	
<i>Ilex integerrima</i> (Vell.) Reissek	L.F. Menezes 757
<b>ARALIACEAE</b>	
<i>Schefflera angustissima</i> (Marchal) Frodin	F.C. Nettesheim 216
<b>ARECACEAE</b>	
<i>Astrocaryum aculeatissimum</i> (Schott) Burret <sup>LR1</sup>	L.F. Menezes 417
* <i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i> (Cham.) Glassman	F.C. Nettesheim 294
<b>ASTERACEAE</b>	
<i>Vernonanthura discolor</i> (Spreng.) Less.	F.C. Nettesheim 169
<b>BIGNONIACEAE</b>	
<i>Cybistax antisyphilitica</i> (Mart.) Mart.	F.C. Nettesheim 31
<i>Handroanthus heptaphyllus</i> Mattos	F.C. Nettesheim 223
* <i>Jacaranda puberula</i> Cham.	R.S. Nunes 1
<i>Sparattosperma leucanthum</i> (Vell.) K.Schum.	L.F. Menezes 1065
* <i>Tabebuia cassinoides</i> (Lam.) DC. <sup>DD</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 295
<b>BORAGINACEAE</b>	
* <i>Cordia sellowiana</i> Cham.	D.C. Carvalho 29
<i>Cordia trichoclada</i> DC.	L.F. Menezes 592
* <i>Cordia trichotoma</i> (Vell.) Arráb. ex Steud.	F.C. Nettesheim 203
<b>BURSERACEAE</b>	
<i>Protium brasiliense</i> (Spreng.) Engl.	M.S. Conde 648
<i>Protium heptaphyllum</i> (Aubl.) Marchand	G.A. Rodrigues sem n°
<i>Tetragastris breviacuminata</i> Swart	F.C. Nettesheim 81
<b>CANNABACEAE</b>	
<i>Celtis iguanaea</i> (Jacq.) Sarg.	F.C. Nettesheim 228
* <i>Trema micrantha</i> (L.) Blume	M.C. Souza 13
<b>CHRYSOBALANACEAE</b>	
<i>Hirtella hebeclada</i> Moric. ex DC.	F.C. Nettesheim 141
<i>Licania kunthiana</i> Hook.f.	F.C. Nettesheim 221
<i>Licania riedeli</i> Prance	F.C. Nettesheim 37
<i>Parinari excelsa</i> Sabine	M.S. Conde 634
<b>CLETHRACEAE</b>	
<i>Clethra scabra</i> Pers.	F.C. Nettesheim 52
<b>CLUSIACEAE</b>	
* <i>Garcinia brasiliensis</i> Mart.	F.C. Nettesheim 246
<i>Garcinia gardneriana</i> (Planch. & Triana.) Zappi	F.C. Nettesheim 1
* <i>Kielmeyera lathrophyton</i> _Saddi	D.C. Carvalho 56
<b>COMBRETACEAE</b>	

Table 3. Continued...

Family/species	Voucher
<i>Terminalia januariensis</i> DC. <sup>VU</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 234
<b>CUNNONIACEAE</b>	
<i>Lamanonia ternata</i> Vell.	F.C. Nettesheim 22
<b>ELAEOCARPACEAE</b>	
<i>Sloanea guianensis</i> (Aubl.) Benth.	F.C. Nettesheim 76
<b>ERYTHROXYLACEAE</b>	
* <i>Erythroxylum passerinum</i> Mart.	F.C. Nettesheim 112
<i>Erythroxylum pulchrum</i> A.St.-Hil.	A. Melo 13
<i>Erythroxylum subsessile</i> (Mart.) O.E.Schulz.	D.C. Carvalho 02
<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b>	
<i>Actinostemon concolor</i> (Spreng.) Müll.Arg.	D.C. Carvalho 58
<i>Actinostemon communis</i> (Müll.Arg.) Pax.	L.F. Menezes 718
<i>Alchornea triplinervia</i> (Spreng.) Müll.Arg.	L.F. Menezes 244
<i>Algernonia brasiliensis</i> Baill.	F.C. Nettesheim 84
<i>Aparisthium cordatum</i> (A.Juss.) Baill.	M.C. Souza 11
* <i>Croton compressus</i> Lam.	A. Melo 12
<i>Croton floribundus</i> Lund. ex Didr.	F.C. Nettesheim 60
<i>Croton sphaerogynus</i> Baill	L.F. Menezes 783
* <i>Joannesia princeps</i> Vell.	D.C. Carvalho 72
* <i>Sebastiania gaudichaudii</i> (Müll. Arg.) Müll. Arg.	G.M. Siqueira 15
<i>Senefeldera verticillata</i> (Vell.) Croizat	F.C. Nettesheim 147
<b>FABACEAE</b>	
* <i>Albizia polycephala</i> (Benth.) Killip ex Record	R. Facre 08
* <i>Andira anthelmia</i> (Vell.) Benth.	R.S. Nunes 2
* <i>Andira fraxinifolia</i> Benth.	L.F. Menezes 1110
<i>Copaifera lucens</i> Dwyer	F.C. Nettesheim 35
* <i>Dalbergia frutescens</i> (Vell.) Britton	R. Facre 13
<i>Inga capitata</i> Desv.	F.C. Nettesheim 105
* <i>Inga edulis</i> Mart.	F.C. Nettesheim 299
<i>Inga lanceifolia</i> Benth. <sup>EN</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 104
* <i>Inga laurina</i> (Sw.) Willd.	M.S. Conde 650
<i>Inga subnuda</i> Salzm. ex Benth.	M.S. Conde 486
<i>Myrocarpus frondosus</i> Allemão <sup>DD</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 103
<i>Ormosia arborea</i> (Vell.) Harms	D. Araujo 10549
<i>Piptadenia gonoacantha</i> (Mart.) J.F.Macbr.	D.C. Carvalho 57
<i>Pseudopiptadenia contorta</i> (DC.) G.P.Lewis & M.P.Lima	H.P. Lima 343
<i>Pseudopiptadenia leptostachya</i> (Benth.) Rauschert	F.C. Nettesheim 106
* <i>Schizolobium parahyba</i> (Vell.) Blake	A.S. Medeiros 120
* <i>Tachigali pilgeriana</i> (Harms) Oliveira-Filho <sup>EN</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 116
* <i>Senna silvestris</i> (Vell.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby	M.C. Souza 108
* <i>Swartzia langsdorffii</i> Raddi	F.C. Nettesheim 164
* <i>Zolernia ilicifolia</i> (Brongn.) Vogel	R.S. Nunes 4
<b>LAURACEAE</b>	
<i>Aniba firmula</i> (Nees & Mart.) Mez	L.F. Menezes 658
<i>Beilschmiedia rigida</i> (Mez) Kosterm. <sup>TE</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 194
<i>Endlicheria glomerata</i> Mez	F.C. Nettesheim 193
* <i>Endlicheria paniculata</i> (Spreng.) J.F.Macbr.	G.A. Rodrigues 3
<i>Licaria armeniaca</i> (Nees) Kosterm.	L.F. Menezes 822
* <i>Nectandra membranacea</i> (Sw.) Griseb.	L.F. Menezes 1064
<i>Nectandra oppositifolia</i> Nees	M.S. Conde 484
* <i>Nectandra puberula</i> (Schott) Ness	G.A. Rodrigues 4
* <i>Ocotea aciphylla</i> (Ness & Mart.) Mez <sup>LRI</sup>	G.A. Rodrigues 5
* <i>Ocotea divaricata</i> (Ness) Mez	D.C. Carvalho 130
<i>Ocotea elegans</i> Mez	F.C. Nettesheim 130
<i>Ocotea lancifolia</i> (Schott) Mez	R.S. Nunes 5

Table 3. Continued...

Family/species	Voucher
<i>Ocotea notata</i> (Nees & Mart.) Mez	D. Araújo 9762
<i>Ocotea teleiandra</i> (Meisn.) Mez	F.C. Nettesheim 04
<b>LECYTHIDACEAE</b>	
* <i>Cariniana estrellensis</i> (Raddi) Kuntze	F.C. Nettesheim 296
<i>Cariniana legalis</i> (Mart.) Kuntze <sup>VU</sup>	M.S. Conde 463
<b>MALVACEAE</b>	
<i>Ceiba speciosa</i> (A.St.-Hil) Ravenna	F.C. Nettesheim 224
<i>Erioteca penthaphylla</i> (Vell. & K.Schum.) A.Robyns	F.C. Nettesheim 25
<i>Luehea divaricata</i> Mart. & Zucc.	F.C. Nettesheim 28
<i>Pseudobombax grandiflorum</i> (Cav.) A.Robyns	L.F. Menezes 533
<i>Quararibea turbinata</i> (Sw.) Poir.	F.C. Nettesheim 200
<b>MALPIGHIACEAE</b>	
* <i>Byrsonima crispa</i> A.Juss.	G.A. Rodrigues 11
<i>Byrsonima laxiflora</i> Griseb.	F.C. Nettesheim 62
* <i>Byrsonima sericea</i> DC.	J.P. Junior 46
<b>MELASTOMATACEAE</b>	
* <i>Huberia ovalifolia</i> DC.	M.S. Conde 470
* <i>Miconia calvescens</i> DC.	H.P. Lima 340
* <i>Miconia chartacea</i> Triana	G.A. Rodrigues 6
<i>Miconia cinnamomifolia</i> (DC.) Naudin	M.S. Conde 478
* <i>Miconia dodecandra</i> Cogn.	K.C. Silva 14
<i>Miconia prasina</i> (Sw.) DC.	H.P. Lima 348
* <i>Tibouchina estrellensis</i> (Raddi) Cogn.	F.C. Nettesheim 190
* <i>Tibouchina granulosa</i> (Desr.) Cogn.	R.S. Nunes 6
* <i>Tibouchina trichopoda</i> (DC.) Baill.	K.C. Silva 25
<b>MELIACEAE</b>	
* <i>Guarea guidonia</i> (L.) Sleumer	F.C. Nettesheim 179
<i>Guarea macrophylla</i> Vahl	F.C. Nettesheim 16
* <i>Trichilia casarettoi</i> C.DC. <sup>VU</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 188
<i>Trichilia elegans</i> A.Juss.	L.F. Menezes 586
<i>Trichilia lepidota</i> Mart.	D.C. Carvalho 54
<b>MONIMIACEAE</b>	
<i>Mollinedia oligantha</i> Perkins	M.S. Conde 474
<b>MORACEAE</b>	
<i>Brosimum guianense</i> (Aubl.) Huber	M.C. Souza 92
<i>Ficus adhatodifolia</i> Schott ex Spreng.	L.F. Menezes 594
<i>Ficus arpazusa</i> Casar.	F.C. Nettesheim 138
* <i>Ficus clusiifolia</i> Schott.	F.C. Nettesheim 183
* <i>Ficus cyclophylla</i> (Miq.) Miq. <sup>EN</sup>	A.C.C. Moreira 11
<i>Ficus gomelleira</i> Kunth	L.F. Menezes 1001
<i>Ficus luschnathiana</i> (Miq.) Miq.	M.C. Souza 10
<i>Sorocea guilleminiana</i> Gaudich. <sup>VU</sup>	G.A. Rodrigues 10
* <i>Sorocea hilarii</i> Gaudich.	L.F. Menezes 229
<b>MYRISTICACEAE</b>	
<i>Virola gardneri</i> (A.DC.) Warb.	F.C. Nettesheim 149
<b>MYRSINACEAE</b>	
* <i>Myrsine coriacea</i> (Sw.) R.Br. ex Roem & Schult.	L.F. Menezes 596
<i>Myrsine venosa</i> A.DC.	L.F. Menezes 583
<b>MYRTACEAE</b>	
<i>Calyptranthes lanceolata</i> O.Berg	L.F. Menezes 1093
<i>Calyptranthes lucida</i> Mart. ex DC.	F.C. Nettesheim 111
<i>Campomanesia guazumifolia</i> (Cambess.) O.Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 14
* <i>Campomanesia guaviroba</i> (DC.) Kiaersk.	L.F. Menezes 999
<i>Eugenia bahiensis</i> DC.	F.C. Nettesheim 198

Table 3. Continued...

Family/species	Voucher
* <i>Eugenia brasiliensis</i> Lam.	L.F. Menezes 632
<i>Eugenia excelsa</i> O.Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 101
* <i>Eugenia florida</i> DC.	G.A. Rodrigues 7
<i>Eugenia microcarpa</i> O.Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 218
* <i>Eugenia neolanceolata</i> Sobral	R.S. Nunes 11
* <i>Eugenia neonitida</i> Sobral	M.C. Souza 134
* <i>Eugenia neosilvestris</i> Sobral	F.C. Nettesheim 108
<i>Eugenia oblongata</i> Mattos & D.Legrand	F.C. Nettesheim 197
<i>Eugenia prasina</i> O.Berg <sup>VU</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 220
<i>Eugenia puniceifolia</i> (Kunth) DC.	F.C. Nettesheim 80
<i>Eugenia riedeliana</i> O.Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 15
<i>Eugenia rostrata</i> O. Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 47
* <i>Eugenia sulcata</i> Spring ex Mart.	L.F. Menezes 627
<i>Eugenia tinguayensis</i> Cambess.	F.C. Nettesheim 79
* <i>Eugenia uniflora</i> L.	R.S. Nunes 12
<i>Marlierea excoriata</i> Mart.	F.C. Nettesheim 6
<i>Marlierea obscura</i> O.Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 110
<i>Marlierea suaveolens</i> Cambess.	F.C. Nettesheim 24
<i>Marlierea tomentosa</i> Cambess.	F.C. Nettesheim 100
<i>Myrceugenia myrcioides</i> (Cambess.) O. Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 61
<i>Myrcia acuminatissima</i> O.Berg	F.C. Nettesheim 134
<i>Myrcia laxiflora</i> Cambess.	F.C. Nettesheim 40
<i>Myrcia multiflora</i> (Lam.) DC.	L.F. Menezes 672
<i>Myrcia pubipetala</i> Miq.	L.F. Menezes 521
* <i>Myrcia selloi</i> (Spreng.) N.Silveira	L.F. Menezes 992
<i>Myrcia spectabilis</i> DC.	M.S. Conde 468
<i>Myrcia splendens</i> (Sw.) DC.	F.C. Nettesheim 30
* <i>Myrcia tijucensis</i> Kiaersk.	H.P. Lima 355
* <i>Myrciaria floribunda</i> (H. West ex Willd.) O.Berg.	R.S. Nunes 13
* <i>Myrciaria tenella</i> (DC.) O.Berg	A. Melo 25
<i>Neomitranthes</i> aff. <i>glomerata</i> (D.Legrand) D.Legrand	F.C. Nettesheim 41
<i>Plinia rivularis</i> (Cambess.) Rotman	F.C. Nettesheim 245
<i>Psidium cattleianum</i> Sabine	F.C. Nettesheim 44
<b>NYCTAGINACEAE</b>	
<i>Guapira opposita</i> (Vell.) Reitz	H.P. Lima 322
<b>OCHNACEAE</b>	
* <i>Ouratea cuspidata</i> (A.St.-Hil.) Engl.	R.S. Nunes 14
<i>Ouratea miersii</i> (Planch.) Engl.	M.S. Conde 674
* <i>Ouratea oliviformis</i> (A.St.-Hil.) Engl.	D.C. Carvalho 70
* <i>Ouratea parviflora</i> (A.DC.) Baill.	F.C. Nettesheim 226
<b>OPILIACEAE</b>	
<i>Agonandra excelsa</i> Griseb.	F.C. Nettesheim 85
<b>PERACEAE</b>	
<i>Pera glabrata</i> (Schott) Poepp. ex Baill.	D. Araujo 9886
<b>PHYTOLACACEAE</b>	
* <i>Gallesia integrifolia</i> (Spreng.) Harms	F.C. Nettesheim 292
<b>PIPERACEAE</b>	
* <i>Piper arboreum</i> Aubl.	G.M. Siqueira 78
* <i>Piper mollicomum</i> Kunth	R.S. Nunes 15
<i>Piper rivinoides</i> Kunth	F.C. Nettesheim 195
<b>PROTEACEAE</b>	
<i>Roupala</i> aff. <i>meisneri</i> Sleumer	F.C. Nettesheim 26
<b>QUIINACEAE</b>	
* <i>Quiina glazovii</i> Engl.	F.C. Nettesheim 143



Table 3. Continued...

Family/species	Voucher
<b>RHAMNACEAE</b>	
<i>Colubrina glandulosa</i> Perkins	F.C. Nettesheim 157
<b>RUBIACEAE</b>	
<i>Amaioua intermedia</i> Mart. ex Schul & Schult.f.	L.F. Menezes 585
<i>Alseis floribunda</i> Schott	F.C. Nettesheim 89
<i>Bathysa stipulata</i> (Vell.) C.Presl	F.C. Nettesheim 10
<i>Coussarea accedens</i> Müll.Arg.	F.C. Nettesheim 248
* <i>Coussarea meridionalis</i> (Vell.) Müll.Arg.	D. Hottz 66
<i>Coussarea nodosa</i> (Benth.) Müll.Arg.	F.C. Nettesheim 97
<i>Coutarea hexandra</i> (Jacq.) K.Schum.	F.C. Nettesheim 50
* <i>Faramea calyciflora</i> A.Rich. ex DC.	F.C. Nettesheim 236
<i>Faramea occidentalis</i> (L.) A.Rich.	F.C. Nettesheim 153
<i>Guettarda viburnoides</i> Cham. & Schldl.	M.S. Conde 460
<i>Ixora gardneriana</i> Benth.	F.C. Nettesheim 159
<i>Posoqueria latifolia</i> (Rudge) Schult.	F.C. Nettesheim 51
<i>Psychotria carthagenensis</i> Jacq.	F.C. Nettesheim 91
<i>Psychotria mapourioides</i> DC.	F.C. Nettesheim 247
<i>Psychotria pubigera</i> Schldl.	D. Hottz 25
<i>Psychotria racemosa</i> Rich.	D. Hottz 29
<i>Psychotria stenocalyx</i> Müll.Arg.	G.M. Siqueira 81
<i>Randia armata</i> (Sw.) DC.	D.C. Carvalho 62
* <i>Rudgea nobilis</i> Müll.Arg. <sup>DD</sup>	D. Hottz 91
<i>Simira pikia</i> (K.Schum.) Steyerf.	F.C. Nettesheim 232
<b>RUTACEAE</b>	
<i>Almeidea rubra</i> A.St.-Hil.	F.C. Nettesheim 2
* <i>Dictyoloma vandellianum</i> A.Juss	G.A. Rodrigues 2
* <i>Esenbeckia grandiflora</i> Mart.	R.S. Nunes 7
<i>Zanthoxylum rhoifolium</i> Lam.	M.C. Souza 12
<b>SALICACEAE</b>	
<i>Casearia arborea</i> (Rich.) Urb.	A. Melo 08
* <i>Casearia commersoniana</i> Cambess.	L.F. Menezes 209
* <i>Casearia decandra</i> Jacq.	R.S. Nunes 10
<i>Casearia sylvestris</i> Sw.	F.C. Nettesheim 17
<i>Xylosma prockia</i> (Turcz.) Turcz.	F.C. Nettesheim 82
<b>SAPINDACEAE</b>	
* <i>Allophylus heterophyllus</i> (Cambess.) Radlk.	R.S. Nunes 8
<i>Allophylus petiolulatus</i> Radlk.	F.C. Nettesheim 117
<i>Cupania concolor</i> Radlk.	M.S. Conde 477
* <i>Cupania emarginata</i> Cambess.	H.P. Lima 321
<i>Cupania oblongifolia</i> Mart.	D. Araujo 1607
* <i>Cupania racemosa</i> (Vell.) Radlk.	L.F. Menezes 526
<i>Matayba guianensis</i> Aubl.	F.C. Nettesheim 219
* <i>Sapindus saponaria</i> L.	L.F. Menezes 1042
<b>SAPOTACEAE</b>	
<i>Chrysophyllum flexuosum</i> Mart. <sup>LR2</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 173
<i>Chrysophyllum</i> aff. <i>lucentifolium</i> Cronquist.	F.C. Nettesheim 230
<i>Chrysophyllum paranaense</i> T.D.Penn. <sup>VU</sup>	F.C. Nettesheim 146
<i>Ecclinusa ramiflora</i> Mart. <sup>LR2</sup>	L.F. Menezes 517
* <i>Manilkara subsericea</i> (Mart.) Dubard	R.S. Nunes 9
<i>Micropholis</i> cf. <i>cuneata</i> Pierre ex Glaz.	F.C. Nettesheim 67
* <i>Micropholis crassipedicellata</i> (Mart. & Eichler) Pierrie <sup>LR2</sup>	G.A. Rodrigues 12
<i>Pouteria bangii</i> (Rusby) T.D.Penn.	F.C. Nettesheim 36
<i>Pouteria caimito</i> (Ruiz & Pav.) Radlk.	L.F. Menezes 1505
* <i>Pouteria</i> cf. <i>durlandii</i> (Standl.) Baehni	F.C. Nettesheim 229

Table 3. Continued...

Family/species	Voucher
<i>*Pouteria cf. torta</i> (Mart.) Radlk.	F.C. Nettesheim 131
<i>Pradosia kuhlmannii</i> Toledo <sup>EN</sup>	L.F. Menezes 1090
<b>SIPARUNACEAE</b>	
<i>Siparuna guianensis</i> Aubl.	R. Facre 10
<b>SOLANACEAE</b>	
<i>Solanum argenteum</i> Dunal	L.F. Menezes 597
<b>TERNSTROEMACEAE</b>	
<i>*Ternstroemia brasiliensis</i> Cambess.	G.A. Rodrigues 9
<b>URTICACEAE</b>	
<i>Cecropia pachystachya</i> Trécul	F.C. Nettesheim 291
<b>VERBENACEAE</b>	
<i>*Cytharexylum myrianthum</i> Cham.	M.C. Souza 79
<b>VIOLACEAE</b>	
<i>Rinorea guianensis</i> Aubl.	F.C. Nettesheim 148
<i>Rinorea laevigata</i> (Sol. ex Ging.) Hekking	F.C. Nettesheim 231
<b>VOCHYSIACEAE</b>	
<i>Vochysia oppugnata</i> (Vell.) Warm.	M.S. Conde 469
<i>*Qualea gestasiana</i> A.St.-Hil.	G.A. Rodrigues 13

Table 4. Bray-Curtis distance values among sites listed at Table 2 and included in the similarity analysis.

	PAM, RJ	PAR, RJ	TIN, RJ	IMA, RJ	RBT, RJ	UBA, SP	IGR, RJ
PAM, RJ	–						
PAR, RJ	11.8	–					
TIN, RJ	19.5	19.6	–				
IMA, RJ	18.4	15.0	16.9	–			
RBT, RJ	<b>21.6</b>	5.7	9.6	<b>20.2</b>	–		
UBA, SP	8.8	9.3	10.7	8.3	12.9	–	
IGR, RJ	7.7	10.7	10.5	8.7	3.4	18.7	–

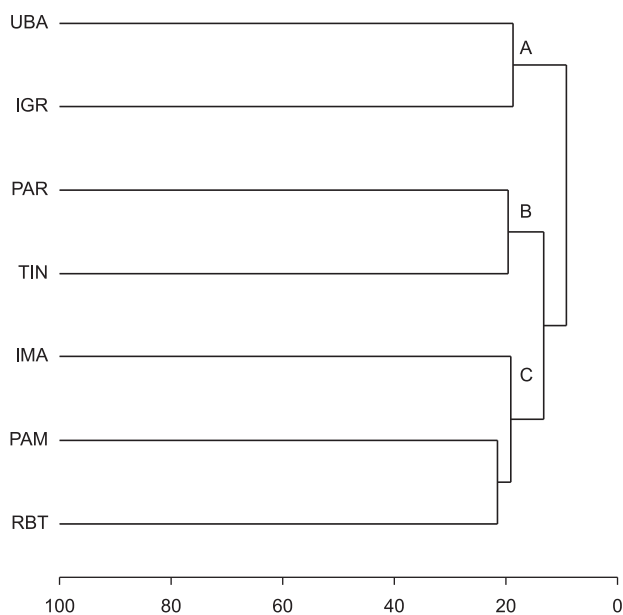


Figure 2. Similarity Cluster based on Bray-Curtis distance measure and UPGMA method. The areas considered in this Cluster are listed at Table 2 and the three similarity groups are designated by the letters A, B and C.

Grande (A), the second one composed of Cachoeiras de Macacu and Tinguá (B) and the third one formed by Marambaia, Poço das Antas and Rio Bonito (C).

## Discussion

Relative to the previous study of Conde et al. (2005), the present effort represents a detection increase of 104.3% species, 44.1% genera and 26.8% families. The number of new occurrences to the area helps to ensure a more accurate description of the Marambaia slope forest flora community.

A high number of families and genera are represented by only one species. This trend has also been observed in studies at Rio de Janeiro state and other forest fragments along the Atlantic Forest extension (Silva & Nascimento 2001, Moreno et al. 2003, Peixoto et al. 2004). Some studies have pointed out that this fact is probably related to the Atlantic Forest's diverse flora and high number of endemic species. This diversity would favor high species turnover rates, consequently diminishing the number of families and genera with more than one species (Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000, Scudeller et al. 2001, Oliveira-Filho et al. 2005, Nettesheim et al. 2010, Caiafa & Martins 2010).

On the other hand, the six richest families represent 48.9% of all recorded species at the area. When compared to the other 20 Atlantic Forest studies shown at Table 1, it is evident that these six families are usually the richest at Rio de Janeiro and northern São Paulo states.

Particularly prominent among these studies are Myrtaceae, Fabaceae, Lauraceae and Rubiaceae. The first two appear in 19 of the 21 areas, occupying the first or second richest status in 13 of them, while the latter two appear among the richest families respectively at 18 and 14 locations. Therefore, the high species richness found in these families at Marambaia slope forest is consistent with other nearby Atlantic Forest locations (Kurtz & Araujo 2000, Oliveira 2002, Guedes-Bruni et al. 2006a, b, Carvalho et al. 2007, 2009). These results are corroborated by a meta-analysis of 125 Atlantic Forest remnants in the Brazilian Southeastern Ombrophilous and Seasonal Forests (Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000). This study emphasizes Myrtaceae, Rubiaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Melastomataceae as usual detainers of the highest numbers of species at the vegetation in this region.

This same study also shows *Eugenia*, *Myrcia*, *Ocotea* and *Miconia* as the richest genera in these forests (Oliveira Filho & Fontes 2000). Therefore, given our results, the richness patterns of the genera at Marambaia slope forest seems to be consistent with the local and regional patterns detected for the Atlantic Forest at Southeastern Brazil (Peixoto & Gentry 1990, Moreno et al. 2003, Carvalho et al. 2006b, Nettesheim et al. 2010). It is thus reasonable to assume that, despite man's interference in the past, with all these richest families and genera, the Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forest on Marambaia Island is an important remnant and its preservation must be guaranteed. A comparison of the basal area at this study (55.68 m<sup>2</sup>) with the value at the well preserved Cachoeiras de Macacu slope forest (57.30 m<sup>2</sup>) (Kurtz & Araujo 2000), gives support to this reasoning. This seems especially true if we consider that when four sites with different disturbance histories were evaluated at Ilha Grande (RJ), the "climax" area presented a basal area of 57.90 m<sup>2</sup> (Table 2). Though these last two comparisons must be seen with caution due to the different sampling methods (Table 2), the lack of studies with standardized methods led us to use the available data.

The number of species found at threatened species lists is another evidence that the Marambaia slope forest is an important Atlantic Forest remnant despite past interference. It does not have as many threatened species as the nearby Serra do Mar State Park. Gomes et al. (2011) found 35 threatened species (14% of the 251 species detected) at this location. Nevertheless, Marambaia slope forest still detains a high percentage of threatened species, especially if considering that it is not a protected area. This remnant's importance increases when taken into account the relevance of this site to the conservation of Sapotaceae. Other species that shows why this is an interesting area for conservation efforts and tree population studies are *Beilschmiedia rigida* (Mez) Koslerm., *Inga lanceifolia* Benth., *Tachigali pilgenianum* Harms, *Ficus cyclophylla* (Miq.) Miq. and *Pradosia kuhlmannii* Toledo (Table 3). According to the IUCN and MMA criteria, they are threatened of extinction and have a high risk of disappearing in the wild in the near future (Brasil 2008, International... 2010).

When compared to other studies that evaluated the floristic similarity in Atlantic Forest areas (Peixoto et al. 2004, Rolim et al. 2006, Carvalho et al. 2006b, Nettesheim et al. 2010), the similarity among the seven areas analyzed can be considered low (Table 4). This calls attention to the high tree and shrub floristic variation particularly within Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forests. The floristic differentiation that this type of forest presents may play an important role at increasing Atlantic Forest overall vegetation diversity. These similarity results are consistent with the elevated heterogeneity highlighted in other Atlantic Forest comparison studies (Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000, Peixoto et al. 2004, Oliveira-Filho et al. 2005, Carvalho et al. 2006b, Rolim et al. 2006, Nettesheim et al. 2010).

Our Cluster analysis based in these similarities yielded some interesting results. Though grouped with Poço das Antas and

Rio Bonito (both about 150 km distant from Marambaia Island), Marambaia slope forest is closer to Ilha Grande (~20 km) and Ubatuba (~100 km) and was initially expected to be more similar to them. According to the environmental data of the seven compared areas, Marambaia and the other locations in group C have the highest mean annual temperatures, lowest sampled altitudes and seem to present a trend toward lower rain incidence (Table 2). It appears logical to assume these characteristics also suggest that the areas in group C are drier than the other evaluated locations. Thus, it seems that the floristic resemblance of the areas in this group is most likely a consequence of environmental resemblance than geographical proximity. Such hypothesis should be further tested by future efforts, but group B represents an additional evidence to support it. At this group, Cachoeiras de Macacu appears together with Tinguá even though they are 80 km apart, and Rio Bonito is actually only 30 km away from Cachoeiras de Macacu. Of the seven evaluated locations, both Cachoeiras de Macacu and Tinguá exhibit the highest sampled altitudes and an elevated rain level. Although recent studies have highlighted that the environment is important to understand Atlantic Forest floristic patterns in Southeastern Brazil, the extent to which random processes are relevant to structure this forest is still an unanswered question (Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000, Oliveira-Filho et al. 2005, Nettesheim et al. 2010).

Such results suggest that, considering floristic composition, the Marambaia Island slope forest tree and shrub community is closer to slope forests at the Guanabara Graben than to the Serra do Mar Mountain range, like first suggested by the Cluster provided by Nettesheim et al. (2010). However, this difference may be a consequence of the Cluster analysis itself. As Nettesheim et al. (2010) took into consideration 32 areas, the different grouping of Marambaia slope forest at their work may be due to more available data regarding its floristic similarity with other places (including areas with different forest types). Consistently with this reasoning, when we ran the Cluster analysis with presence/absence regarding the same seven areas evaluated here, the groups formed didn't change. Thus the difference among our results and the ones at Nettesheim et al. (2010) is not necessarily a consequence of using abundance data. To ideally tackle the discrepancy between our results and those found by Nettesheim et al. (2010) it would be preferable to have quality abundance data regarding at least the 32 areas considered in their analysis.

Despite these inconsistencies, the greater resemblance of Marambaia Island slope forest and the apparently drier areas at Guanabara Graben is reasonable given our field observations. The studied vegetation seems rather dry and doesn't exhibit the conspicuous epiphytic stratum nor the dense pteridophyte community typically found at wetter forests. Given its low mean annual precipitation (Table 2), this may be a consequence of the local topography, which is not a prominent barrier to rain coming from the ocean. This same situation may be true at the other slope forests present at the Guanabara Graben and could explain why these areas, though far from each other, have a similar flora.

The present effort represents a significant update of the Marambaia slope forest tree and shrub community description. It adds a substantial amount of new species, genera and families occurrences at the area. Also, the comparison of its richest families and genera with other Atlantic Forest studies, together with the recorded basal area, seem like a robust evidence that this remnant is, despite of past interference, presently well preserved. This conclusion is further supported by the 19 endangered species detected at the area. Their detection is reasonable evidence that there can be viable and restricted populations of these species at Marambaia Island slope forest, strongly requiring the conservation of this vegetation. Our results

also show that the Marambaia Island slope forest seems to be more related to Submontane Dense Ombrophilous Forests at the Guanabara Graben. Nevertheless, though similarity patterns among Atlantic Forest areas are important evidence of trends like this vegetation's high heterogeneity, there are still unanswered questions that need to be properly addressed. To efficiently give light into this discussion it would be interesting that future contributions sample standardized abundance biological and environmental data across a wide number of Atlantic Forest remnants.

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