

## QUANTITATIVE ETHNOBOTANY OF A RESTINGA FOREST FRAGMENT IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

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### ABSTRACT

(Quantitative ethnobotany of a *restinga* forest fragment in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) An ethnobotanical study was carried out in the local fishing community of Arraial do Cabo Municipality, starting with an inventory of a *restinga* forest remnant adjacent to the community being studied. Using quantitative ethnobotany methodology allied with ecological parameters (frequency, density, dominance and their relative values, importance value index), we sampled 296 individuals and identified 41 species in 26 families and 36 genera. The highest use value (U.V.) was attributed to *Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi. Based on these data we interviewed local fishermen regarding useful species. We used structured interviews and quantitative analysis based on informant consensus. The 22 different types of usage mentioned were placed in five categories: food, medicine, technology, construction and firewood. Selective extraction of wood for construction, firewood and boat repair were the most important use values, involving 46% of the species, 57% of the families and 80% of the individuals.

**Key words:** fishing colony, ecological ethnobotany, vegetation structure, *restinga*, extractivist reserve.

### RESUMO

(Etnobotânica quantitativa de um fragmento de floresta de restinga no Rio de Janeiro, Brasil) Um estudo etnobotânico foi feito na comunidade de pescadores artesanais do município de Arraial do Cabo, começando com o inventário de espécies, desenvolvido em um remanescente de floresta de restinga próximo à comunidade estudada. Usando uma metodologia quantitativa em Etnobotânica, aliada a parâmetros ecológicos (frequência, densidade, dominância e seus valores relativos, e índice de valor de importância), os seguintes resultados foram obtidos: 296 indivíduos foram inventariados e 41 espécies identificadas, distribuídas em 26 famílias e 36 gêneros. O maior valor de uso (V.U.) foi atribuído a *Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi. A partir destes dados, foram realizadas entrevistas estruturadas, e análises quantitativas, baseadas no consenso entre os informantes (pescadores locais) para buscar indicação sobre as espécies úteis. Os 22 diferentes tipos de uso mencionados foram distribuídos em cinco categorias: alimentar, medicinal, tecnologia, construção e combustível. Os valores de uso mais expressivos, envolvendo 46% das espécies, 57% das famílias e 80% dos indivíduos, foram relativos à extração seletiva de madeira para construção, lenha e reparo de barcos.

**Palavras-chave:** pescadores artesanais, etnobotânica ecológica, fitossociologia, restinga, reserva extrativista.

### INTRODUCTION

Recent ethnobotanical investigations have emphasized the need for quantitative studies to support the maintenance of biodiversity and the traditional knowledge associated with it (e.g., Phillips & Gentry 1993 a,b ; Figueiredo *et. al.* 1993; Begossi 1996; Chazdon & Coe 1999; Hanasaki *et. al.* 2000; Galeano 2000; Cunha & Albuquerque 2006). Many different methodological approaches are used (Phillips

1996) including: a) informant consensus – the relative importance of each use is calculated directly from the degree of consensus among informants; b) subjective allocation – the relative importance of each use is assigned subjectively by the researcher; and c) summed uses – no attempt is made to quantify the relative importance of each use; they are simply added up according to plant-use category, taxonomic group or vegetation type.

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Studies using quantitative methodology in the Neotropics (e.g., Balée 1986, 1987; Prance *et al.* 1987; Boom 1990) have demonstrated the need to protect plant families such as Arecaceae, Lecythydaceae, Chrysobalanaceae, and Malpighiaceae that are widely used by indigenous groups. In Peru, Phillips & Gentry (1993 a,b) and Phillips *et al.* (1994) developed a quantitative method whereby the use value (UV) of each family was estimated from the number of plants assigned to different categories (construction, trade, food, technology and medicine). UV analysis was adapted by Galeano (2000) in Colombia using informant consensus for useful species and families. On the coast of Southeast Brazil, ethnobotanical studies have used diversity indices to compare the diversity of traditional knowledge with that of plant use (e.g., Begossi *et al.* 1993; Figueiredo *et al.* 1993, 1997; Lima *et al.* 2000; Rossato *et al.* 1999; Hanazaki *et al.* 2000, Albuquerque & Andrade 2002a, b).

Rio de Janeiro state lies in a transition zone between two major coastal regions. It is very diverse in terms of geomorphology and climate, with a rich flora and a variety of vegetation types (Araujo 2000). The *restingas* (sandy coastal plains of marine Quaternary origin plus the vegetation that grows there) occupy an area of c. 1200km<sup>2</sup>, or 2.8% of the state's total area (Araujo & Maciel 1998). This is one of the most endangered Brazilian coastal ecosystems due to intense land use by tourism and real estate speculation (Araujo 1997).

Many fishing villages located on or near the *restingas* make use of local plants even today. These communities depend basically on fishing, subsistence agriculture, and fruits gathered in the wild or from home gardens. Local fishing communities, like other similar traditional communities, have been the subject of field studies in the social and biological sciences (e.g., Diegues 1994; Adams 2000; Prado 2002; Silva 2000). These studies discuss issues involving nature conservation and natural resource use linked to local fishing communities.

Human activities are seriously threatening both the *restingas* and the fishing communities with their traditional knowledge. Predatory tourism and real-estate speculation have led to the loss of traditional knowledge and to rampant environmental degradation, with a subsequent decline in cultural and biological diversity. This knowledge has been transmitted from father to son over the years, but studies show that the younger generation is no longer interested in traditional knowledge and it may be lost in the future (Lima *et al.* 2000; Prado 2002; Adams 2000; Fonseca-Kruel & Peixoto 2004). Clearly ethnobotanical and floristic studies in *restingas* are urgently needed.

Given this background, we surveyed the flora and vegetation structure of a remnant area of *restinga* forest so as to assess how local fishermen use the plant life of this area. We quantified plant and plant-product use from the point of view of this traditional fishing community, thus establishing a relationship between the availability and diversity of plant resources.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Study Area

The study area consists of a remnant *restinga* forest lying c. 700 m from the ocean in Arraial do Cabo Municipality, Rio de Janeiro (22°56'S; 42°05'W) bordering the Arraial do Cabo Marine Extractivist Reserve (Resex). This conservation unit was created on January 30, 1990 (Federal Decree n° 98.897) to protect the livelihood of local fishermen and to preserve the flora and fauna.

The 1500-square-kilometer Cabo Frio region, which includes Arraial do Cabo Municipality, is one of 14 Brazilian Centers of Plant Diversity (Araujo 1997). Sandy coastal plains, dunes (up to 20 m), alluvial deposits and large lagoons (e.g., Araruama – 200 km<sup>2</sup>) dominate this region (Araujo 2000). The beach-ridge system that stretches between the villages of Arraial do Cabo and Saquarema is known as Massambaba Restinga, and consists of two ridges of different ages, with a dune field covering the eastern extremity of the older ridge (Turcq *et al.* 1999).

Mean annual rainfall is 823 mm and is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year; mean annual temperature is 23°C with relative humidity 83% (data from the Cabo Frio weather station). Winds are fairly constant (58%) and mainly from the northeast. The local climate is a variation of Koeppen's Bsh type, that is, hot and semi-arid (Barbière 1984).

Cabo Frio's low-rainfall climate is unique to Brazil's southeastern coast which is mostly very wet (Araujo 2000). This is due, in part, to the Cabo Frio upwelling phenomenon, the ascent of a cold-water current rich in nutrients that promotes marine-life diversity and rich fishing grounds.

## Methods

The ethnobotanical survey was based on traditional knowledge of local fishermen - the oldest male residents, born and raised in the neighborhood of Praia Grande where the headquarters of the fishermen's association is located.

During early visits to the headquarters of the Arraial do Cabo Marine Extractivist Reserve (Resex) and the local fishermen's association (APAC), an informant was selected for an interview from among the older fishermen who earn their living by fishing. After the interview, this informant named a second one, who indicated a third, and so forth. This is known as the "snowball" technique (Bailey 1994). A total of 14 key informants were interviewed (10% of the fishermen belonging to the association); all were male, ranging in age from 50 to 84 years old. Fishing provides a livelihood for seven of these; four could not participate because of poor health and three did not wish to participate in the study.

Therefore seven key informants were identified and interviewed for the study, all of whom were male and who had considerable knowledgeable of the regional flora. The parents of these informants were born in the village of Arraial do Cabo, had grown up there, and made their living from fishing (residents with this background are known as "cabistas";

Fonseca-Kruel & Peixoto 2004). Five of the key informants indicated useful plants *in loco*, a technique called "walk-in-the-woods" (Albuquerque & Lucena 2004), and these plants were collected for identification. Before pressing, these plants were shown to the other informants together with a photograph of the entire plant in its habitat and details of the flower and fruit.

The interviews were recorded, reproduced and native *restinga*-forest species were identified and grouped into five use categories (construction, food, firewood, medicine, technology) adapted to this study from Galeano (2000), Albuquerque & Andrade (2002a,b) and Fonseca-Kruel & Peixoto (2004).

Included in the food category was any part of the plant that can be ingested, either raw or processed (like juices), used in human and animal food. The medicine category refers to the kind of plant used to heal and the disease being treated. The plants used to make furniture, build ships, repair boats, make poles used to haul in the fish nets, soap and utensils, in general, were placed in the technology category. The construction category included, for example, foundations for houses, beams to hold up the roof and walls, flooring and other uses. The firewood category included plants used for cooking in old stoves.

In monthly field trips from March 2000 to July 2001, we located several remnants of *restinga* forest as well as other vegetation types identified by the fishermen. We visited these fragments regularly to collect plants. Concomitantly, we used semi-structured interviews based on a previously prepared questionnaire. The interviews took place at the fishermen's association and on accompanied walks through the *restinga* forest (as recommended by Martin 1995) to collect botanical material and take notes on species use (Phillips & Gentry 1993 a; Alexiades & Sheldon 1996).

To gather additional data, we interviewed informants at the local fishermen's association (i.e., outside the study area), thus including elderly informants who could not go to the field.

Interviews were carried out individually to avoid the influence of other informants. They were based on consensus between informants, that is, we calculated the relative importance of use directly from the degree of consensus of the selected informants (Phillips & Gentry 1993 a,b). Our data on each useful species included Latin name, plant family, common name, life form, use(s), used part, and informant's name.

In the ethnobotanical analysis, we first calculated the use-value estimate of each species (Prance *et al.* 1987; Phillips & Gentry 1993 a,b). The total use value of each species, by each informant, is defined as  $UV_{is} = \sum U_{is} / n_{is}$  (where  $UV_{is}$  = the use-value of each species  $s$  for each informant  $i$ ;  $U_{is}$  equals the number of uses mentioned in each event by informant  $i$ , and  $n_{is}$  equals the number of events for species  $s$  with informant  $i$  (Phillips & Gentry 1993a). An "event" is defined as the process of asking one informant on one day about the uses they know for one species (Phillips & Gentry 1993a).

Our estimate of the overall use value for each species  $s$ ,  $UV_s$ , is then:  $UV_s = \sum UV_{is} / n_s$ ; where  $n_s$ , equals the number of informants interviewed for species  $s$ . We then calculated the use-value estimate of each plant family (Phillips & Gentry 1993 a,b);  $FUV = \sum UV_s /$  number of species; where FUV equals Family Use Value. This estimate allowed us to assess the importance given to each useful plant family by the traditional population (local fishermen). These indices are used as an integrated, quantified evaluation of the local intensity of resource use by the fishermen.

### Vegetation survey

This study was carried out in a remnant *restinga* forest (1.5 ha area) using the survey method proposed by Gentry (1982) and used by Mendonza (1999). This method consists of sampling a 0.1-hectare area consisting of 10 transects, 50 m  $\times$  2 m, spaced c. 50 m apart. We measured all woody trees (dbh  $\geq$  2.5 cm) and vines (diameter  $\geq$  2.5 cm at soil level) and estimated tree height using a pruner pole. Plants were identified based on the literature,

by comparison with herbarium specimens, or by a plant taxonomist. Voucher specimens are deposited in the herbarium of the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden (RB). Structural parameters follow Brower & Zar (1984); diversity and evenness are based on Magurran (1988).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Flora and vegetation structure

In 0.1 ha of *restinga* forest at Arraial do Cabo, 296 individuals belonging to 41 species, 26 families and 36 genera were sampled. Total density was 2960 individuals per hectare and total dominance was 44 m<sup>2</sup>/ha (Tab.1). Dead plants (30; 9.2%) brought the total number of individuals up to 326. Shannon's diversity index was 2.69 nats/ind. (evenness = 0.73).

When compared to other patches of *restinga* forest in the Cabo Frio region (studies using the same method and sample size), species richness and diversity values surpassed those found in a low forest (mean height = 6 m) near the beach (Lobão & Kurtz 2000), but were considerably less than those found in three taller forests on well-drained soils (Rezende 2004; Fernandes 2002, 2005; Tab. 2). The values were similar to those reported for a periodically flooded *restinga* forest at Restinga de Jurubatiba National Park on the northern coast of Rio de Janeiro state (Tab. 2), in a 0.5-hectare sample that excluded lianas (Oliveira 2000).

The diversity of this forest is low when compared to that of Atlantic forests. This is due not only to fewer species but also to structural oligarchy or dominance restricted to a few species (Tab. 1). Almost half (49%) of total importance value is represented by the first three species.

No family shows significant species diversification in this forest. The most representative families, in terms of species richness, are Leguminosae, Sapindaceae, Myrtaceae and Rubiaceae (Tab.1), which are among the most species-rich in the *restingas* of Rio de Janeiro state (Araujo 2000).

Total basal area of 44 m<sup>2</sup>/ha is high when compared to other *restinga* forests sampled

**Table 1** – Structural parameters (dbh  $\geq$  2.5 cm) in 0.1 ha of *restinga* forest at Arraial do Cabo (Ni = number of individuals; AF = absolute frequency; AD = absolute density; ADo = absolute dominance; RF = relative frequency; RD = relative density; RDo = relative dominance; IV = importance value).

Families	Species	Ni	AF (%)	AD (ind/ha)	ADo (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	RF (%)	RD (%)	RDo (%)	IV
Anacardiaceae	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> Raddi	108	100	1080	16.294	9.17	36.49	37.04	82.70
Sapotaceae	<i>Sideroxylon obtusifolium</i> (Humb. ex Roem. & Schult.) T.D.Penn.	25	70	250	14.148	6.42	8.45	32.16	47.03
Leguminosae	<i>Chloroleucon tortum</i> (Mart.) Pittier ex Barneby & J.W.Grimes	6	50	60	4.407	4.59	2.03	10.02	16.63
Myrtaceae	<i>Campomanesia schlechtendaliana</i> (O. Berg) Nied.	21	70	210	1.122	6.42	7.09	2.55	16.07
Leguminosae	<i>Inga laurina</i> (Sw.) Willd.	12	50	120	2.519	4.59	4.05	5.73	14.37
Myrtaceae	<i>Myrrhinium atropurpureum</i> Schott	20	50	200	0.466	4.59	6.76	1.06	12.40
Meliaceae	<i>Trichilia casaretti</i> C.DC.	9	50	90	0.512	4.59	3.04	1.16	8.79
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Sapium glandulatum</i> (Vell.) Pax	5	50	50	0.597	4.59	1.69	1.36	7.63
Myrtaceae	<i>Eugenia uniflora</i> L.	6	40	60	0.187	3.67	2.03	0.43	6.12
Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus puberulus</i> Radlk.	5	40	50	0.147	3.67	1.69	0.33	5.69
Piperaceae	<i>Piper amalago</i> var. <i>medium</i> (Jacq.) Yunck.	4	30	40	0.637	2.75	1.35	1.45	5.55
Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus</i> sp.	7	30	70	0.141	2.75	2.36	0.32	5.44
Cactaceae	<i>Brasilopuntia brasiliensis</i> (Willd.) A.Berger	5	30	50	0.420	2.75	1.69	0.95	5.40
Capparaceae	<i>Capparis flexuosa</i> (L.) L.	4	30	40	0.228	2.75	1.35	0.52	4.62
Sapindaceae	<i>Paullinia racemosa</i> Wawra	4	30	40	0.050	2.75	1.35	0.11	4.22
Apocynaceae	<i>Forsteronia leptocarpa</i> (Hook. & Arn.) A.DC.	4	30	40	0.027	2.75	1.35	0.06	4.17
Celastraceae	<i>Maytenus obtusifolia</i> Mart.	5	20	50	0.028	1.83	1.69	0.06	3.59
Myrsinaceae	<i>Myrsine parvifolia</i> A.DC.	3	20	30	0.284	1.83	1.01	0.65	3.49
Solanaceae	<i>Cestrum laevigatum</i> Schltldl.	3	20	30	0.186	1.83	1.01	0.42	3.27

Families	Species	Ni	AF (%)	AD (ind/ha)	ADo (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	RF (%)	RD (%)	RDo (%)	IV
Simaroubaceae	<i>Picramnia ramiflora</i> Planch.	6	10	60	0.064	0.92	2.03	0.15	3.09
Bignoniaceae	<i>Arrabidaea conjugata</i> (Vell.) Mart.	3	20	30	0.062	1.83	1.01	0.14	2.99
Rubiaceae	<i>Psychotria carthaginensis</i> Jacq.	3	20	30	0.020	1.83	1.01	0.04	2.89
Leguminosae	<i>Zollernia glabra</i> (Spreng.) Yakovlev	2	20	20	0.102	1.83	0.68	0.23	2.74
Rhamnaceae	<i>Scutia arenicola</i> (Casar.) Reissek	2	20	20	0.051	1.83	0.68	0.12	2.63
Verbenaceae	<i>Aegiphila sellowiana</i> Cham.	2	20	20	0.027	1.83	0.68	0.06	2.57
Rubiaceae	<i>Randia armata</i> (Sw.) DC.	2	20	20	0.015	1.83	0.68	0.03	2.54
Sapindaceae	<i>Paullinia weinmanniaefolia</i> Mart.	4	10	40	0.050	0.92	1.35	0.11	2.38
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	1	10	10	0.452	0.92	0.34	1.03	2.28
Malpighiaceae	<i>Heteropterys coleoptera</i> A.Juss.	3	10	30	0.033	0.92	1.01	0.08	2.01
Anacardiaceae	<i>Lithraea brasiliensis</i> Marchand	1	10	10	0.313	0.92	0.34	0.71	1.97
Leguminosae	<i>Inga subnuda</i> subsp. <i>luschnathiana</i> (Benth.) T.D.Penn.	1	10	10	0.253	0.92	0.34	0.58	1.83
Ulmaceae	<i>Trema micrantha</i> (L.) Blume	1	10	10	0.042	0.92	0.34	0.10	1.35
Rubiaceae	<i>Guettarda viburnoides</i> Cham. & Schltdl.	1	10	10	0.034	0.92	0.34	0.08	1.33
Bignoniaceae	<i>Arrabidaea</i> sp.	1	10	10	0.011	0.92	0.34	0.03	1.28
Moraceae	<i>Maclura</i> aff. <i>tinctoria</i> (L.) D.Don. ex Steud.	1	10	10	0.011	0.92	0.34	0.02	1.28
Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros inconstans</i> Jacq.	1	10	10	0.010	0.92	0.34	0.02	1.28
Simaroubaceae	<i>Picramnia bahiensis</i> Turcz.	1	10	10	0.008	0.92	0.34	0.02	1.27
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum inaequale</i> Vell.	1	10	10	0.008	0.92	0.34	0.02	1.27
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Pera glabrata</i> (Schott) Poepp. ex Baill.	1	10	10	0.007	0.92	0.34	0.02	1.27
Urticaceae	<i>Urera baccifera</i> (L.) Gaudich. ex Wedd.	1	10	10	0.006	0.92	0.34	0.01	1.27
Theophrastaceae	<i>Jacquinia armillaris</i> Jacq.	1	10	10	0.005	0.92	0.34	0.01	1.27
<b>Total</b>		296		2960	43.987	100	100	100	300

**Table 2** – Species richness and diversity of *restinga* and Atlantic forest sites on the coast of Rio de Janeiro state; dbh = diameter at breast height; H' - Shannon's diversity index; J - evenness; AF - Atlantic Forest; SDF – Seasonally Dry Forest; RF – Restinga Forest. (-) no information.

Source	Study Area	dbh (cm)	Area (ha)	H'	J	Number of Species	Basal Area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	Type
Melo & Mantovani (1993)	Ilha do Cardoso (SP)	≥2.5	1.0	3.64	-	157	47.9	AF
Oliveira (2002)	Ilha Grande (RJ)	≥2.5	0.26	4.31	-	134	57.9	AF
Farág (1999)	Búzios (RJ)	≥5.0	0.5	4.00	0.84	124	32.0	AF
Sá (2006)	Búzios (RJ)	≥2.5	0.1	4.05	0.85	115	29.7	SDF
Sá (2006)	Cabo Frio (RJ)	≥2.5	0.1	3.78	0.85	84	20.9	SDF
Lobão & Kurtz (2000)	Búzios-Praia Gorda (RJ)	≥2.5	0.1	2.52	0.76	26	21.8	RF
Fernandes (2002)	Búzios-Manguinhos (RJ)	≥2.5	0.1	3.59	0.83	72	30.0	RF
Resende (2004)	Cabo Frio-Campos Novos (RJ)	≥2.5	0.1	4.00	0.85	108	32.1	RF
Fernandes (2005)	Cabo Frio-Tamoios (RJ)	≥2.5	0.2	4.20	0.83	158	35.2	RF
Oliveira (2000)	Macaé (RJ)	≥0.5	0.5	2.79	0.73	45	32.9	RF
Silva <i>et al.</i> (1994)	Ilha do Mel (PR)	≥5.0	0.56	3.22	0.81	53	46.5	RF
Guedes <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Bertioga (SP)	≥3.2	0.24	3.70	0.88	67	27.7	RF
This study	Arraial do Cabo (RJ)	≥2.5	0.1	2.69	0.73	41	43.9	RF

using the same method and sample size in the Cabo Frio region (Fernandes 2002, 2005; Rezende 2004; Lobão & Kurtz 2000) and when compared to a seasonally flooded *restinga* forest in northern Rio de Janeiro state based on a 0.5-hectare sample (Oliveira 2000) (Tab. 2). It also surpasses the basal area of seasonally dry forests in the Cabo Frio region investigated by Sá (2006) using the same method and sample size, and by Farág (1999) using a 0.5-hectare sample (Tab. 2). Reported basal areas for other *restinga* forests south of Rio de Janeiro are generally lower than that found in the present study (see Sugiyama, 1998; Guedes *et al.* 2006; Sztutman & Rodrigues 2002). High basal area (46.5m<sup>2</sup>/ha) has been reported for a gradient of dry *restinga* to wet *restinga* forest in Paraná state (Silva *et al.*

1994 - this value is not strictly comparable since minimum diameter was dbh ≥ 5cm). Most Atlantic rain forests have considerably higher basal area (*e.g.*, Melo & Mantovani 1994; Oliveira 2002), but this is not always the case and may be related to disturbance (Oliveira 2002; Silva & Nascimento 2001).

According to Liebsch *et al.* (2007), biomass (basal area in this case) increases with the age of a forest or time after disturbance. The high basal area of the forest studied here would seem to indicate that this forest has not been disturbed for some time, which is not the case. There may be another explanation for the high basal area. The most important species (*Schinus terebinthifolius* and *Sideroxylon obtusifolium*) contain c. 70% of total basal area and also have high use values. The way in which

these species are managed by the local population of fishermen could heavily influence their survival and growth within the forest.

The results of studies such as those of Anderson & Posey (1985) on the management of cerrados by Kayapó Indians imply that many tropical ecosystems, long regarded as “natural” by researchers, may have been heavily influenced by native populations. To make an analogy with *restingas*, the forest fragment discussed herein may have been managed by several generations of the “shell-mound people”. The Cabo Frio area is rich in shell mounds, and Scheel-Ybert (1999; 2000) found evidence in these structures of management activities. Local informants state that they apply a “fisherman’s ecology” when exploiting the resources of this fragment. This means that they do not cut or damage the “mother trees”; they use only the sprouts on these trees. The result may be the high basal area and high use value of the dominant species seen here.

In terms of structure, the most important species are *Schinus terebinthifolius*, *Sideroxylon obtusifolium*, *Chloroleucon tortum*, *Campomanesia schlechtendaliana*, *Inga laurina* and *Myrrhinium atropurpureum* (Tab.1). All species are common in the Cabo Frio area, with the exception of *Terminalia catappa* and *Urera baccifera* which are not native to *restinga* vegetation (Araujo 2000) and owe their presence to human disturbance. In the Cabo Frio region, farther to the north on the Búzios peninsula, Fernandes (2002) and Lobão & Kurtz (2000) also reported *S. terebinthifolius* as one of the most important species based on high importance values attributed to relatively high dominance. In other areas of *restinga* forest (Tab. 2), including severely disturbed areas (Sá 1996), this species was not sampled or was rare (Rezende 2004). However, in areas that showed signs of selective cutting (Assumpção & Nascimento 2000) it was among the 10 most important species in community structure.

Total number of plants per sample unit varied from 16 to 49 (dead plants included),

while the number of species varied from 5 to 17. Sample units with fewer species were dominated by *S. terebinthifolius*. These units were located in a wetter area of the forest, with a thicker litter layer, that is periodically flooded during the rainy season (E.A. Mattos *pers. comm.* 2004). This area may also be flooded occasionally by seawater (Muehe 1994) or it may have been part of Holocene lagoon deposits some 3900 years B.P. (Turcq *et al.* 1999), and therefore contain saline soils. The presence of key species such as *Jacquinia armillaris* and *S. obtusifolium* in or near the forest is an indication of saline soils. This factor, together with man’s use of the area, may explain the relatively low number of woody species, since in other study areas using the same sampling method and plot size (Tab. 2), *restinga* forests are much richer in species (Fernandes 2002, 2005; Rezende 2004).

Trees were the most representative life form (44%), followed by shrubs (39%), and vines (6.7%). Most of the trees fell into the 4.5–7.5 m size class. Taller trees (up to 12.5 m) were represented by *S. obtusifolium*, *Inga laurina*, and *S. terebinthifolius*. Tree diameters lie mainly between 2.5 and 5.5 cm. The largest diameters belong to *S. obtusifolium*, *C. tortum*, and *S. terebinthifolius*.

Many trees showed trunk damage (from selective felling, wind, fire, disease, etc.) as seen by the large number of multiple stems (46%). Studies in the *restingas* of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo states have shown that some woody species have great resprouting capacity (Cirne & Scarano 1996; Sá 1996; 2002; Carvalhaes & Mantovani 1998; Assumpção & Nascimento 2000). Resprouting seems to be an important mechanism for regeneration in disturbed *restinga* habitats, giving species with this capacity an advantage over others. Structural characteristics of secondary *restinga* vegetation most likely reflect this capacity. In the sample area, species with high importance values also have high percentages of plants with sprouts (*e.g.*, *S. obtusifolium*, *I. laurina*, *S. terebinthifolius*).



Gentry (1995) found an average of 50–70 species in lowland dry forests (rainfall < 1600 mm/year) using similar methodology. This number is considerably higher than that of the present study. He made no reference to disturbance in the study areas. The Arraial do Cabo study site is highly disturbed as seen by the many stem sprouts. Fire is probably recurrent here, as was observed three months after we finished our field work, when eight of the ten transects showed signs of fire.

*Schinus terebinthifolius* is a highly tillered species with high density and importance values (Fig. 1). This pioneer species is prominent in some vegetation types of the Cabo Frio area, mainly in wet areas (Lobão & Kurtz 2000). Species abundance suggests tolerance to limiting factors that occur in the area such as high soil salinity due to the proximity of the Araruama lagoon and salt flats, as well as frequent strong winds. Another abundant many-tillered species is *S. obtusifolium*. Anthracological studies from local shell mounds have shown that the most abundant charcoal remains were from the *S. obtusifolium* (Scheel-Ybert 2000). Prehistoric hunter-gatherers may have used this wood widely and also consumed the small, black fruits. Scheel-Ybert (2000) suggests that social groups managed this species, because it is often found growing near the shell mounds.

### Ethnobotany

Local fishermen use 57% of the botanical families and 46% of the species occurring in the study area. These taxa include 80% of the individuals included in the sampled area. They mentioned 22 different uses for these species (Tab. 3). A single species may have up to 4 different uses, but most have one or two. There were 296 events, resulting in a total of 422 use citations for this remnant *restinga* forest.

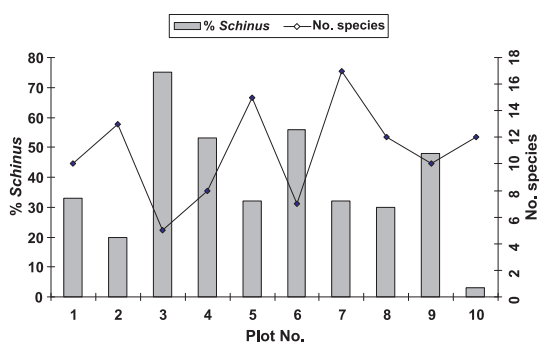
Use categories with the most species were technology (47%), food (42%), followed by construction (36.8%), firewood (36.8%) and

medicine (21%). In this study, it is important to note that useful woody species were related to subsistence activities rather than commerce, as in Galeano (2000).

Cunha & Albuquerque (2006) in an ethnobotanical study in an Atlantic forest fragment in northeast Brazil, using similar methods and use categories, obtained different results. The most important use categories were construction (39%), firewood (21%), technology (19%), food (8.7%) and medicine (8.2%). At Arraial do Cabo, the most important categories were technology (47%) and food (42%), that is, the local community regards the *restinga* as a source of nutrients, with many edible fruits, and also as a source of plants used to make fishnets, tool handles, utensils and wood for boat repairs.

The stem was the most useful part of the plant collected by the fishermen (60%), followed by fruit (23%), leaves (8.5%), bark (5.7%) and root (2.9%). This is similar to what was reported by Cunha and Albuquerque (2006), where wood and fruits were the most extracted plant parts from the forest.

Species and family use values (UVs) plus the number of uses, interviews and informants are given in Table 3. Most species had low UVs. The highest UVs belonged to *S. terebinthifolius*, *I. laurina*, *Cestrum*



**Figure 1** – Number of species and percentage of *Schinus terebinthifolius* plants per plot in 0.1 ha of *restinga* forest at Arraial do Cabo, RJ.

**Table 3** – Useful species (dbh  $\geq$  2.5) sampled in 0.1 ha of *restinga* forest at Arraial do Cabo Municipality, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (UV<sub>s</sub> - total species use value; Use categories: Co – construction; Fo - food; Fu – firewood; Me - medicine; Te – technology).

Species	Vernacular name	UV <sub>s</sub>	Number of Events	Number of Informants	Uses	Collector's Number
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	aroeira	2.38	14	6	Me, Fu, Fo, Te	VSF 488,535
<i>Inga laurina</i>	ingá, farinha-seca	2.13	12	6	Fu, Fo, Te, Co	VSF 268,531
<i>Cestrum laevigatum</i>	canema	1.9	14	5	Me, Te	VSF 549,561
<i>Campomanesia schlechtendaliana</i>	gabirola	1.19	16	7	Fo, Te, Co	VSF 469
<i>Sideroxylon obtusifolium</i>	saputiquiaba	1.09	14	7	Co, Te	VSF 472,519
<i>Brasilopuntia brasiliensis</i>	arumbeba	1.05	13	6	Fo	VSF 485
<i>Piper amalago</i> var. <i>medium</i>	aperta-ruão	1.0	7	3	Me	VSF 514,512
<i>Scutia arenicola</i>	arribeira, ribeira	1.0	5	3	Me, Fo, Te	VSF 536
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	amendoeira	1.0	12	6	Fo	VSF 510
<i>Capparis flexuosa</i>	timbó	0.86	7	5	Fo, Te, Co	VSF 548,555
<i>Inga subnuda</i> subsp. <i>luschnathiana</i>	ingá	0.8	6	5	Fo, Te, Co	VSF 516
<i>Myrsine parvifolia</i>	capororoca	0.8	9	5	Fu	VSF 209,352
<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>	pitanga	0.6	7	5	Fu, Fo	VSF 229,358
<i>Chloroleucon tortum</i>	jacaré	0.5	10	6	Fu	VSF 576
<i>Picramnia ramiflora</i>	imbiu	0.5	5	4	Fu	VSF 560
<i>Trema micrantha</i>	corindiba	0.5	8	4	Te	VSF 570
<i>Allophylus puberulus</i>	estaladeira	0.25	7	6	Fu	VSF 509,518
<i>Maytenus obtusifolia</i>	papagaio	0.25	5	4	Fu	VSF 473
<i>Myrrhinium atropurpureum</i>	-	0.2	7	5	Fu	VSF 528,562

*laevigatum*, *C. schlechtendaliana*, *S. obtusifolium*, *Brasilopuntia brasiliensis* and *T. catappa*. These species were the most frequently mentioned in the 296 events, by the greatest number of informants.

Only a few species had high use values, similar to what Galeano (2000) found in the Choco, Colombia, where high use values were concentrated in only four species, while most species had low use values. A similar situation has been found in other areas, such as gallery forests in Pernambuco (Ferraz *et al.* 2006), a semi-arid region in Pernambuco state (Albuquerque *et al.* 2005). It seems possible that use patterns may alter the structure of the forest. In the present study, for example, the species with the highest use values are also

the dominant species (i.e., those that contribute most to total basal area). However, this possibility must be examined in more detail.

The families with the highest family use values (FUVs) were Anacardiaceae (2.1), Solanaceae (1.6), Rhamnaceae (1.3), Leguminosae (1.15), and Sapotaceae (1.14), because they were indicated by most of the informants in the interviews and presented multiple uses, associated with firewood, construction and/or consumption. Cunha & Albuquerque (2006) also report that the largest use of the plants is related to obtaining wood to be used in building homes, producing firewood and charcoal; the most frequent species were *Tapirira guianensis* Aubl. (Anacardiaceae) and another Anacardiaceae, *Thyrsodium schomburgkianum* Benth. and others.

Anacardiaceae had the greatest use values, due to *S. terebinthifolius*, an important plant resource in *restinga*. This species has multiple uses, such as technology (from the bark and root, a dye is extracted for fishnets), firewood, medicinal (bark used in traditional medicine as antiseptic and cicatrizing agent) and food (fruits for both birds and humans, mostly children). *S. terebinthifolius* and *S. obtusifolium* were cited by all fishermen as being useful. The former had three main use types: medicinal (anti-inflammatory, healing and antiseptic), technological (extraction of red pigment from root and stem for dyeing fish nets, cited mainly as happening “in the past”), construction (rafters, also, mainly “in the past”). The most common use cited for this species was pigment extraction for dyeing fish nets to protect against attack by fish and other animals (Kneip & Machado 1993). Today, however, this is no longer done because fish numbers have declined, greatly reducing attacks on the nets. The extensive use of nylon nets has also contributed to this change.

According to Scheel-Ybert (1999), *S. obtusifolium* is an interesting species because it also is abundant in most of the archeological sites studied in southeastern Rio de Janeiro state, and is today very common in the vicinity of shell mounds. This association leads us to believe that this species may have been managed by the shell-mound people. It may have begun accidentally, and then was encouraged because of the edible fruits (Scheel-Ybert 1999, 2000). It should also be pointed out that *restinga* vegetation is very rich in legumes, with edible seeds, and many other fruit species (belonging to the genera *Eugenia*, *Myrcia*, *Myrciaria*, *Psidium*, *Pouteria*, and others). Many edible fruits may possibly have been dispersed by man and wild animals in this region.

*Sideroxylon obtusifolium* wood is used for boat repairs and to make the framework of boats and boat battens. According to the fishermen, it is “one of the most durable woods there is. It does not split easily and is

impermeable.” So, boats made or repaired with this wood “last up to 150 years”.

*Cestrum laevigatum* was also indicated by most informants as useful, mainly, in traditional medicine. The leaves are collected, steeped in alcohol, and used for rubbing and massaging fatigued limbs and shoulder muscles.

*Inga laurina*, *C. schlechtendaliana*, *B. brasiliensis*, and *T. catappa* are appreciated mainly for their fruits. Even today, when the fishermen are working along the beach, they collect these fruits in the *restinga*. In the past, the wood of *I. laurina* and *C. schlechtendaliana* was used for building houses; *I. laurina* is used to repair boats. Another important species at the study site is *C. tortum* (used in construction and as firewood).

Of all useful species, 47.3% had some use type in technology. This category includes the construction and repair of boats, needles to make and repair fish nets, poles used to haul in fish nets and to transport fish, soap making and utensils in general. The species in this category belong to eight botanical families (53.3% of the useful families), the most important being Leguminosae, Myrtaceae, and Sapotaceae, with uses related to boat repair and construction.

The food and construction categories were next in use frequency; 42.1% and 36.8% of total useful species, respectively. The eight species used for food belong to six families: Anacardiaceae, Cactaceae, Combretaceae, Leguminosae, Myrtaceae, and Rhamnaceae. Here, the part extracted is always the fruit. Seven species belonging to five families (mainly Leguminosae and Myrtaceae) are used for building homes.

In traditional Indian populations in Brazil, the use of plants as food varies from 21.8% to 40.4% (Prance 1987; Balée 1987). Among seashore inhabitants, food use percentage varies from 17.4% to 51% (Begossi *et al.* 1993; Hanazaki *et al.* 1996; Rossato *et al.* 1999; Hanazaki *et al.* 2000) and a large percentage of the plants used are cultivated.

For the interviewees the food category contributes with 42.1% of the inventoried species but all are species native to the *restingas*. Of the useful species, 36.8% were used as firewood mainly for cooking. Seven species belonging to five families (33.3% of all useful families) were related to this use category.

Three species (21% of all useful species) were used for medicinal purposes: *S. terebinthifolius* (anti-inflammatory, cicatrizing agent, antiseptic), *Piper amalago* (bath to ward off the “evil-eye” and bad spirits), and *C. laevigatum* (cicatrizing agent, antiseptic, bath as medicine for conjunctivitis). The low percentage of medicinal species (7.9%) related to the total inventoried species may have been caused by the inventory inclusion criteria (only woody plants), or according to Voeks (1996) and Cunha & Albuquerque (2006), by the fact that most plants used as medicine by many populations are herbs.

Through the relationship of structural vegetation parameters and use data, that together provide important information for better understanding of the man-nature relationship, it was possible to verify that there is a “vocation” for wood exploitation in this community, since the species with the largest use values are among those from which the wood itself is used as a resource for the community.

## CONCLUSIONS

The informants at Arraial do Cabo retain and preserve knowledge of the use of 46% of the species surveyed in a remnant *restinga* forest belonging to the Arraial do Cabo Marine Extractivist Reserve. This knowledge is an important attribute for the sustainable management and conservation of local ecosystems.

The study area is disturbed by extensive tree cutting and fire, the result of the activities of persons outside the community of fishermen, who aim to pasture cattle in the area or to build small houses. In spite of this, regeneration is taking place as observed by tillering and resprouting of 46% of the stems.

The fishermen routinely recognize in the field many species from the *restinga* used for wood and/or useful fibers, for making needles to sew fish nets, boat hulls and repairs in general, as well as poles to haul in and transport fish nets. They also know useful plants for soap making and utensils. Useful plants for technological purposes were the most commonly cited.

The plants indicated as medicinal were not well represented probably due to the method used which sampled only trees, shrubs, and vines. In many studies in the *restinga*, the plants mentioned as medicinal are mainly herbs found in open formations and on dunes.

The study area, although strongly disturbed, still preserves a representative contingent of the *restinga* forests of Rio de Janeiro. Most of the species are native to *restinga* vegetation. Among the inventoried species, *Jacquinia armillaris* (= *Jacquinia brasiliensis*) is considered Vulnerable according to the Official List of Species of the Brazilian Flora Threatened with Extinction.

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