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EDITORIAL NOTE

The Upper Paraná floodplain is a complex river system of great relevance to the La Plata Basin. Patterns of biodiversity at different levels of organization (populations, communities and ecosystems) are a consequence of a long, evolutionary processes of interactions biotic-abiotic factors. Spatial and temporal patterns reveals the complexity of this large and dynamic ecosystem and its fluctuations. Human influence interferes with these patterns at different levels and with several consequences for the conservation of this region of the Paraná watershed. The Upper Paraná floodplain is also an ecosystem of great economic relevance due to its environmental and productivity patterns. The present Special Number of Brazilian Journal of Biology® reflects the efforts developed by a group of Scientists of Nupelia-University of Maringá, Paraná in the research and management of the Upper Paraná floodplain. It is also a contribution of PELD/CNPq (Programa de Ecologia de Longa Duração – Long Term Program of Ecological Research) of which the Upper Paraná floodplain is a site.

The number is launched exactly six months previously to the International Year of Biodiversity (2010). Brazilian Journal Biology® will be engaged in several publications during this year and the present special number is an excellent start!

Editorial Board