

## Fabaceae of the Rio São Francisco River sub-basin, Nova Marilândia, Mato Grosso, Brazil

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**Abstract:** The watershed of the São Francisco River is a large complex of headwaters of the Paraguay River, the main river of the Pantanal Matogrossense. Considering that Fabaceae are pointed out as the main family in floristic composition of various Brazilian biomes, however in some regions of Brazil is still little known upon the taxa, particularly in the Northern part of the Central-West, this study aimed to present a list of taxa occurring in the sub-basin of the São Francisco River, municipality of Nova Marilândia, State of Mato Grosso. For the taxa we give information on habit, vegetation, data on geographic distribution, potential use, successional strategy and dispersal syndrome, to subsidize habitat restoration projects. We recorded a total of 44 taxa, belonging to 25 genera. *Inga* stood out as the main genus in number of species. Among the identified taxa we found eight new records for the State of Mato Grosso: *Chamaecrista brevicalyx* (Benth.) H. S. Irwin & Barneby var. *brevicalyx*, *Inga alba* (Sw.) Willd., *I. capitata* Desv., *I. heterophylla* Willd., *I. marginata* Willd., *I. nobilis* Willd., *Mimosa nitens* Benth. and *Ormosia coarctata* Jacks. Vouchers are kept in the Herbarium UFMT.

**Keywords:** Leguminosae, *Inga*, neotropical flora, Pantanal, riparian vegetation.

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**Resumo:** A sub-bacia do Rio São Francisco compreende um imenso complexo de nascentes do Rio Paraguai, principal formador do Pantanal Matogrossense. Considerando que Fabaceae é apontada como a principal família na composição florística de vários biomas brasileiros, porém, em determinadas regiões do Brasil ainda se conhece pouco sobre seus táxons, particularmente na região norte do Centro-Oeste brasileiro, este trabalho teve por objetivo apresentar uma lista dos táxons ocorrentes na sub-bacia do Rio São Francisco, município de Nova Marilândia, estado do Mato Grosso. Para os táxons são fornecidas informações sobre o hábito, vegetação, dados de distribuição geográfica, uso potencial, estratégia sucessional e síndrome de dispersão para subsidiar projetos de recuperação ambiental. Um total de 44 táxons foi registrado, pertencendo a 25 gêneros. *Inga* se destacou como o principal gênero em número de representantes. Dentre os táxons identificados, foi observada a ocorrência de oito novos registros para o estado do Mato Grosso, que são: *Chamaecrista brevicalyx* (Benth.) H. S. Irwin & Barneby var. *brevicalyx*, *Inga alba* (Sw.) Willd., *I. capitata* Desv., *I. heterophylla* Willd., *I. marginata* Willd., *I. nobilis* Willd., *Mimosa nitens* Benth. e *Ormosia coarctata* Jacks. Os vouchers estão depositados no Herbário UFMT.

**Palavras-chave:** Leguminosae, *Inga*, flora neotropical, Pantanal, vegetação ciliar.

## Introduction

Leguminosae or Fabaceae is the third largest family of Angiosperms with 19.327 species and 727 genera arranged in 36 tribes (Lewis et al. 2005). In Brazil this family is represented by 212 genera and 2719 species (Lima et al. 2012), that are present in all biomes (Souza & Lorenzi 2008). The family is represented by three subfamilies, Caesalpinioideae, Mimosoideae and Papilionoideae, morphologically different and distributed in all terrestrial ecosystems (Polhill et al. 1981, Lewis et al. 2005).

Riparian forests are fragile formations, but with great floristic richness (Rodrigues & Nave 2004, Pereira 2006) and, despite their fragility, play a relevant role in maintenance of biodiversity, representing areas of refuge and conservation of fauna and flora, forming ecological corridors and assuring maintenance of quantity and quality of water (Botelho & Davide 2002).

The riparian formations found in the sub-basin of the São Francisco River are part of the huge Upper Paraguay River basin that is considered one of the most relevant hydrographic basins for being integrated to Pantanal Biome. In floristic composition works Fabaceae is pointed out as the main family (Duarte 2007, Nunes da Cunha 1990, 1998, Nunes da Cunha & Junk 2000, Pott & Pott 1994, 1999, Soares 2009).

North of the municipality of Nova Marilândia, riparian formations were fragmented in the past by alluvial extraction of diamonds during various decades along the drainage lines, and in the present, by agricultural activity. The scenario of degradation motivates environmental organs to take initiatives to recover these degraded areas. However, the lack of knowledge on floristics hinders such action, as studies in the region are scarce on the headwaters of the Paraguay River (Soares 2009).

Concerning regional richness of the family Leguminosae in Mato Grosso, Silva (2010) recorded 99 species distributed in 54 genera in a floristic survey in the Pantanal sub-region of Poconé, with confirmation of one new record. Furthermore, in the Pantanal sub-region of Barão de Melgaço, Silva (2011) found 40 taxa, distributed in 23 genera, and pointed out two new records.

Therefore, the aims of this study was the identification of taxa of Fabaceae occurring in the sub-basin of the São Francisco River, to subsidize projects of vegetation recovery in this region, through information on geographic distribution, potential use, successional classification and dispersion syndrome of plants.

## Material and Methods

Systematic botanical collections were made in the sub-basin of the São Francisco River, within the limits of the municipality of Nova Marilândia, between the coordinates 14°30'00" - 14°15'00" S and 57°06'00" - 56°48' - 56°00" W, state of Mato Grosso, Central-West region. The São Francisco River and its affluents are part of the headwaters of the Paraguay River and occupy an estimated area of 78.413 ha, within four municipalities: Nova Marilândia, which concentrates above 90% of the headwaters, Nortelândia, Arenápolis and Santo Afonso. In the sub-basin of the São Francisco River one can recognize three phytoecological regions: Seasonal Semideciduous Forest, Contact Savanna/Seasonal Semideciduous Forest and Savanna, occurring in a narrow belt in the extreme North of the area (Brasil 1982).

In the floristic survey we considered all habits. All plants in reproductive phase (flower and/or fruit) were collected and incorporated into the collection of the Herbarium UFMT (acronyms according to Thiers 2012).

The list of taxa and infra-specific categories was based on six field expeditions with duration of five days each, between 2007

and 2009, during the dry and rainy seasons. Also, we examined materials from the municipality of Nova Marilândia deposited in the Herbarium UFMT.

The classification of Fabaceae in subfamilies followed Lewis et al. (2005). The concept of life forms followed Guedes-Bruni et al. (2002), the geographic distribution followed Lima et al. (2012), the potential use followed Lorenzi (2002, 2009) and, Pott & Pott (1994), the successional classification followed Whitmore (1984) and the dispersal syndrome followed Van der Pijl (1982). Taxa identification was achieved consulting the pertinent literature and comparing material deposited in the Herbaria UFMT and RB.

## Results and Discussion

In the floristic survey of the sub-basin of the São Francisco River we identified a total of 44 specific and infraspecific taxa of Fabaceae, distributed in 25 genera and three subfamilies (Table 1). Of these taxa, 14 belong to the subfamily Caesalpinioideae, 17 to Mimosoideae and 13 to Papilionoideae. In our study we point out the Mimosoideae as the richest subfamily of Fabaceae compared to the other two. So, our results differ from most floristic studies, in which Papilionoideae stand out as the most representative subfamily (Almeida et al. 2007, Dutra et al. 2008, Lima et al. 2007, Córdula et al. 2008, Miotto et al. 2008).

Considering Caesalpinioideae, the most expressive genera were *Bauhinia* and *Senna* (3 spp. each). In Mimosoideae, the most representative genus was *Inga* (8 spp., 1 subsp.), followed by *Mimosa* (4 spp.). In Papilionoideae *Stylosanthes* was the best represented genus (3 spp.), and next *Ormosia* (2 spp.). Among the recorded species of Caesalpinioideae, we do confirm a new record for the state of Mato Grosso: *Chamaecrista brevicalyx* (Benth.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby var. *brevicalyx*. Furthermore, among Mimosoideae we have confirmed six new records, five belonging to the genus *Inga*, which are: *I. alba* (Sw.) Willd., *I. capitata* Desv., *I. heterophylla* Willd., *I. marginata* Willd., and *I. nobilis* Willd., plus a new record belonging to the genus *Mimosa*, that is *M. nitens* Benth. And for Papilionoideae we show a new record in the genus *Ormosia*, namely *O. coarctata* Jacks. These taxa were not mentioned in the studies of flora of the state of Mato Grosso (Dubs 1998) and in the list of phanerogamic flora of the Pantanal (Pott & Pott 1994, 1999), neither in the list of species of flora of Brazil (Lima et al. 2012), what reinforces the importance of inventories of local and regional floras.

*Chamaecrista brevicalyx* var. *brevicalyx* occurs in the regions Northeast (PI, PB, PE, BA) and Southeast (MG), being found in the Caatinga *stricto sensu*, rupestrian grassland and Cerrado (Souza & Bortoluzzi 2012), and we found it in vegetation of Cerrado. With regard to species of *Inga*, *I. alba* is cited for the regions North (RR, AP, AM, TO, AC, RO), Northeast (MA, CE), Central-West (GO) and Southwest (MG), occupying the biomes Amazonia and Cerrado (Garcia & Fernandes 2012). According to

Garcia & Fernandes (2012), *I. capitata* occurs in the regions North (RR, AP, PA, AM, AC, RO), Northeast (MA, PB, PE, BA, SE), Southeast (MG, ES, SP, RJ), occupying the domains of Amazonia and Atlantic Forest, while we found it in degraded alluvial forest. On the other hand, *I. heterophylla* is restricted to Amazonia, with distribution only in region North (PA, AM, AC). Another species, *I. marginata* occurs in the regions North (AP, PA, AM, AC), Northeast (CE, BA), Central-West (GO, DF, MS), Southeast (MG, ES, SP, RJ), South (PR, SC, RS), occupying three biomes, Amazonia, Cerrado and Atlantic Forest (Pennington 1997, Garcia 1998). *Inga nobilis* presents distribution in North (AM, AC, RO) and Northeast (BA). It is worth mention that two species of *Inga* were found in riparian forest, *I. alba* and *I. marginata*, while another two in seasonal

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**Table 1.** List of taxa and indication of occurrence in the vegetation of the sub-basin of São Francisco River, Nova Marilândia, MT, Brazil, with classification of habit, successional class, dispersal syndrome and potential use. (Vegetation: C – cerrado; C/SSF – cerrado/seasonal semideciduous forest; ASSF – alluvial seasonal semideciduous forest; SFDA – seasonal forest degraded alluvial; FAP – forest altered by pasture; RF – riparian forest; Habit: TR – tree; TRL – treelet; SB – shrub; SBS – scandent shrub; SSB – Subshrub; HE – herb; LI – Liana. Successional class: P – Pioneer and NP – Non Pioneer. Dispersal syndrome: ANE: Anemochoric; AUT: Autochoric; ZOO: Zoochoric. Vouchers: GFS – Gislaíne Ferreira Soares, RRS – Rosilene Rodrigues Silva). \*New records.

Taxa	Vegetation				Habit	Successional class	Dispersal syndrome	Potential use	Vouchers	
	C	C/SSF	ASSF	SFDA	FAP	RF				
<b>Fabaceae – Caesalpinioideae</b>										
<i>Apuleia leiocarpa</i> (Vogel) J.F. Macbr.			x				NP	AUT	Timber	RRS & GFS 1477
<i>Bauhinia curvula</i> Benth.	x						NP	AUT	Ornamental	RRS & GFS 1501
<i>Bauhinia longicuspis</i> Spruce ex Benth.			x				P	AUT	Timber	GFS & RRS 42
<i>Bauhinia longifolia</i> D.Dietr.					x		P	AUT	Timber	GFS & RRS s.n
<i>Cenostigma macrophyllum</i> Tul.	x						NP	AUT	Timber	RRS & GFS 1617
* <i>Chamaecrista brevicalyx</i> (Benth.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby var. <i>brevicalyx</i>	x						NP	AUT	Ornamental	RRS & GFS 1534
<i>Chamaecrista nictitans</i> (L.) Moench.		x					NP	AUT	Beekkeeping/ Ornamental	GFS & RRS s.n
<i>Hymenaea courbaril</i> L.			x				NP	AUT	Timber	RRS & GFS 1659
<i>Macrolobium acacifolium</i> (Benth.) Benth.						x	NP	AUT	Timber	RRS & GFS 1737
<i>Plataner coronata</i> (Benth.) Vaz		x					NP	AUT	Ornamental	RRS & GFS 1454
<i>Senna obtusifolia</i> (L.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby			x				NP	AUT	Ornamental	GFS & RRS s.n
<i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link			x				P	AUT	Medicinal	RRS & GFS 565
<i>Senna silvestris</i> (Vell.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby						x	NP	AUT	Beekkeeping/ Timber	GFS & RRS s.n
<b>Fabaceae – Mimosoideae</b>										
<i>Tachigali vulgaris</i> L.F. Gomes da Silva & H.C.Lima			x				NP	ANE	Timber	RRS & GFS 1413
<i>Abarema jupunba</i> (Willd.) Britton & Killip						x	NP	AUT	Timber	RRS & GFS 1634
<i>Chroleucon acacioides</i> (Ducke) Barneby & J.W. Grimes						x	NP	AUT	Timber	GFS & RRS 13
<i>Enterolobium schomburgkii</i> (Benth.) Benth.			x				NP	AUT	Timber	RRS & GFS 1437
* <i>Inga alba</i> (Sw.) Willd.							NP	ZOO	Timber	GFS & RRS s.n
* <i>Inga capitata</i> Desv.							NP	ZOO	Timber	GFS & RRS s.n
* <i>Inga heterophylla</i> Willd.			x				NP	ZOO	Timber	RRS & GFS 1426
* <i>Inga marginata</i> Willd.							P	ZOO	Timber	GFS & RRS s.n
* <i>Inga nobilis</i> Willd.			x				NP	ZOO	Timber	RRS & GFS 1462
<i>Inga peizizifera</i> Benth.						x	NP	ZOO	Timber	RRS & GFS 1453
<i>Inga vera</i> subsp. <i>affinis</i> (DC.) T.D.Penn.						x	NP	ZOO	Timber	RRS & GFS 1404
<i>Mimosa debilis</i> Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.							P	ZOO	Timber	GFS & R.R.S. s.n
* <i>Mimosa nitens</i> Benth.							P	AUT	Beekkeeping	GFS & R.R.S. s.n
<i>Mimosa skinneri</i> Benth.			x				P	AUT	Ornamental	GFS & R.R.S. 81
<i>Mimosa xanthocentra</i> var. <i>subsericea</i> (Benth.) Barneby	x						P	AUT	Ornamental	GFS & R.R.S. 47
<i>Parkia pendula</i> (Willd.) Benth ex Walp.						x	NP	AUT	Ornamental	RRS & GFS 1543
							NP	AUT	Timber	GFS s.n

Table 1. Continued...

Taxa	Vegetation	Habit	Successional class	Dispersal syndrome	Potential use	Vouchers
<b>Fabaceae-Papilionoideae</b>						
<i>Andira inermis</i> (W. Wright) Kunth ex DC.		TR	NP	ZOO	Timber	GFS & R.R.S. s.n
<i>Desmodium barbatum</i> (L.) Benth.	x	HE	P	AUT	Beekeeping/Forager and Medicinal	GFS & R.R.S. 86
<i>Indigofera suffruticosa</i> Müll.	x	SBB	P	AUT	Beekeeping/Forager	GFS & R.R.S. s.n
<i>Machaerium aculeatum</i> Raddi		SBS	P	ANE	Timber	GFS & R.R.S. s.n
<i>Ormosia arborea</i> (Vell.) Harms.		TR	NP	AUT/ZOO	Timber	GFS s.n
* <i>Ormosia coarctata</i> Jacks.		TR	NP	AUT/ZOO	Timber	RRS & GFS 1546
<i>Platymiscium pinnatum</i> (Jacq.) Dugand		TR	NP	ANE	Timber	GFS & R.R.S. s.n
<i>Platypodium elegans</i> Vogel		TR	NP	ANE	Timber	GFS s.n
<i>Pterodon emarginatus</i> Vogel		TR	NP	ANE	Timber	RRS & GFS 1527
<i>Stylosanthes acuminata</i> M.B. Ferreira & S. Costa	x	SBB	P	AUT	Forager	GFS & R.R.S. 38
<i>Stylosanthes viscosa</i> (L.) Sw.	x	SBB	P	AUT	Forager	GFS & R.R.S. 75
<i>Stylosanthes guianensis</i> (Aubl.) Sw.	x	SBB	NP	AUT	Forager	GFS s.n
<i>Vatairea macrocarpa</i> (Benth.) Ducke		TR	NP	AUT	Timber	RRS & GFS 1492



semideciduous alluvial forest, that are *I. heterophylla* and *I. nobilis*. The species *Mimosa nitens* has occurrence in the regions North (TO) and Central-West (GO), being restricted to the Cerrado biome (Dutra & Morim 2012); in the sub-basin of São Francisco River we verified its occurrence in degraded seasonal alluvial forest. The species *Ormosia coarctata* is cited for the region North (PA), restricted to the phytogeographic domain of Amazonia (Meireles 2012) and we found it in riparian forest.

In vegetation of degraded seasonal semideciduous alluvial forest we found most species (15), followed by riparian forest with 12, seasonal semideciduous alluvial forest with eight, cerrado with seven, antropized forest with pasture and cerrado/seasonal semideciduous forest with one species (Table 1). In antropized forest, among the observed species, the presence of *Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link and *S. silvestris* (Vell.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby (Caesalpinioideae) and *Mimosa debilis* Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd. (Mimosoideae), reported by Pott & Pott (1994) as indicators of disturbed areas. The taxa *Macrolobium acaciifolium* (Benth.) Benth. (Caesalpinioideae), *Abarema jupunba* (Willd.) Britton & Killip, *Inga alba* (Sw.) Willd., *I. marginata* Willd., *I. pezizifera* Benth., *I. umbellifera* (Vahl) Steud. and *I. vera* subsp. *affinis* (DC.) T.D. Penn. (Mimosoideae) recorded in vegetation of riparian forest, were pointed by Garcia (1998), Lorenzi (2002) and Pennington (1997) as characteristic elements of this type of vegetation.

Most arboreal taxa presented are trees, amounting to 56.8% trees, 20.4% of subshrubs, 18.2% of shrubs and 2% of herbs and lianas, respectively each.

Considering the classifications of the species in ecological groups, our results (Tabela 1) pointed at two groups: pioneer (tolerant of light) and non pioneers; among the non pioneers are: the secondary (tolerant of shade) and the climacic (species which can grow and develop under the canopy). Most species inventoried (30 spp.; 68.2%) fit in the group of non pioneers (secondary), and (14 spp; 31.8%) in the group of pioneers. Among the pioneers of Caesalpinioideae (*Bauhinia longicuspis* Spruce ex Benth., *B. longifolia* D.Dietr. and *Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link); among the initial secondary (*B. curvula* Benth., *Cenostigma macrophyllum* Tul, *Chamaecrista brevicalyx* var. *brevicalyx*, *C. nictitans* (L.) Moench., *Phanera coronata* (Benth.) Vaz, *Senna obtusifolia* (L.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby, *S. silvestris* (Vell.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby and *Tachigali vulgaris* L.F Gomes da Silva & H.C. Lima); among the late secondary, *Hymenaea courbaril* L.; and among the climax, only *Apuleia leiocarpa* (Vogel) J.F. Macbr. (Lorenzi 2002). Among the pioneers species of Mimosoideae (*Inga marginata* Willd., *Inga vera* subsp. *affinis* (DC.) T.D.Penn., *Mimosa debilis* Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd., *M. nitens* Benth. *M. skinneri* Benth. and *M. xanthocentra* var. *subsericea* (Benth.) Barneby); among the initial secondary species (*Abarema jupunba* (Willd.) Britton & Killip, *Chloroleucon acacioides* (Ducke) Barneby & J.W. Grimes, *Inga alba* (Sw.) Willd., *I. capitata* Desv., *I. heterophylla* Willd., *I. nobilis* Willd., *Inga pezizifera* Benth., *I. umbellifera* (Vahl) Steud. and *Samanea tubulosa* (Benth.) Barneby & J.W. Grimes); and among late secondary (*Enterolobium schomburgkii* (Benth.) Benth. and *Parkia pendula* (Willd.) Benth ex Walp.). Among the pioneers of Papilionoideae (*Desmodium barbatum* (L.) Benth., *Indigofera suffruticosa* Müll., *Machaerium aculeatum* Raddi, *Stylosanthes acuminata* M.B. Ferreira & S. Costa, *S. viscosa* (L.) Sw.); among the initial secondary (*Andira inermis* (W. Wright) Kunth ex DC. and *Stylosanthes guianensis* (Aubl.) Sw.); and among the late secondary (*O. arborea* (Vell.) Harms., *Ormosia coarctata* Jacks., *Platymiscium pinnatum* (Jacq.) Dugand, *Platypodium elegans* Vogel, *Pterodon emarginatus* Vogel and *Vatairea macrocarpa* (Benth.) Ducke).

For the dispersal syndromes (Table 1) we observed predominance of the autochoric strategy (dispersal diaspores through gravity or

by explosion) in both studied formations. This is not an expected pattern for tropical forests that have between 50% and 90% of trees and shrubs with zoochorous fruits (Howe & Smallwood 1982). Autochory occurred in 28 species (63.6%), followed by zoochory (dispersal by animals or sticky structures) in nine species (20.5%) and anemocory (dispersal by wind) in five species (11.3%). Autochoric species possibly depend on a secondary dispersor, since many do not have efficient mechanisms for dispersal (Van der Pijl 1982). Also, two species were classified as autochoric and zoochoric on the basis of the initial dehiscence of fruits with later exposure of arilum, i. e., an ornamentation of the seed, as observed in *Ormosia arborea* (Vell.) Harms and *O. coarctata* Jacks., suggesting participation of a secondary agent in dispersal of these species. Zoochory predominated in riparian forests, which occur in habitats with higher water availability, consequently allowing maintenance of a fauna which needs shelter, food and water (Marinho-Filho & Gastal 2000).

The Fabaceae species surveyed in this study can be utilized in projects aimed at environmental rehabilitation of degraded areas in the region of sub-basin of the São Francisco River.

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