



Floristic and Forest Inventory of Santa Catarina: species of evergreen rainforest

Inventário Florístico Florestal de Santa Catarina: espécies da floresta pluvial subtropical

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Abstract

This study presents the list of species of Evergreen Rainforest in Santa Catarina, based on 202 sample units established by the Floristic and Forest Inventory of Santa Catarina, in order to study the tree/shrub component and regeneration in addition to a floristic survey outside the sample units. We recorded 1,473 species: three gymnosperms and 1,470 angiosperms, that totalize 19% of all species quoted for this Brazilian forest type. The most species-rich families were Orchidaceae (143 species), Myrtaceae (142), Asteraceae (98), Melastomataceae (86), Fabaceae (78), Rubiaceae (65), Solanaceae (61), Bromeliaceae (57), Piperaceae (56), and Lauraceae (52). Among them are eight species listed in the Official List of Endangered Species of the Brazilian Flora: *Aechmea blumenavii*, *Araucaria angustifolia*, *Billbergia alfonsojoannis*, *Euterpe edulis*, *Heliconia farinosa*, *Ocotea catharinensis*, *O. odorifera* and *O. porosa*.

Key words: Atlantic Forest, Dense Ombrophylous Forest, richness, threatened species.

Resumo

O presente trabalho objetivou apresentar a lista de espécies da floresta pluvial subtropical (Floresta Ombrófila Densa) em Santa Catarina, com base em 202 unidades amostrais implantadas pelo Inventário Florístico Florestal de Santa Catarina para estudo do componente arbóreo-arbustivo e da regeneração, além de coletas florísticas externas às unidades amostrais. Foram registradas 1.473 espécies, 19,0% das espécies citadas para esta tipologia florestal no Brasil, dentre estas três gimnospermas e 1.470 angiospermas. As famílias mais ricas em espécies foram: Orchidaceae (143 espécies), Myrtaceae (142), Asteraceae (98), Melastomataceae (86), Fabaceae (78), Rubiaceae (65), Solanaceae (61), Bromeliaceae (57), Piperaceae (56) e Lauraceae (52). Entre as espécies registradas, oito constam na Lista Oficial das Espécies da Flora Brasileira Ameaçadas de Extinção: *Aechmea blumenavii*, *Araucaria angustifolia*, *Billbergia alfonsojoannis*, *Euterpe edulis*, *Heliconia farinosa*, *Ocotea catharinensis*, *O. odorifera* e *O. porosa*.

Palavras-chave: Floresta Atlântica, Floresta Ombrófila Densa, riqueza, espécies ameaçadas.

Introduction

The most diverse forest type of the Atlantic Forest domain is the Evergreen Rainforest (Joly *et al.* 1999). In Santa Catarina (SC) state it occurs along the coastal mountain range, extending up to 200 km eastward and spanning from sea-level to

1,000 m alt. It is influenced by subtropical climatic conditions such as high temperatures and high precipitation evenly distributed throughout the year, but it also experiences frost occasionally due to polar cold fronts during the winter (Oliveira-Filho *et al.* 2013). The Evergreen Rainforest (or Dense Ombrophilous Forest *sensu* IBGE 1992)

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originally covered around 27,555 km² of SC territory; at present, the forest cover has decreased to 12,619 km², or 40% Santa Catarina (Vibrans *et al.* 2013a). Although reduced and fragmented, it is still the richest and most exuberant forest type of the Atlantic Forest, comprising various life forms, in particular epiphytes (Klein 1978; Leite & Klein 1990). Its high biological diversity is associated with the great environmental heterogeneity related to latitudinal and altitudinal distribution, geological diversity, and geomorphological diversity (e.g. the Serra do Mar and Serra Geral - see Martinelli 2007), which provides different site conditions of soil, and climate that influenced the different migration routes (Morellato 2000; Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000; Leite 2002; Waechter 2002).

The Evergreen Rainforest is the most well-known forest type in the state of Santa Catarina in regard to species diversity. This is due primarily to botanists Roberto Miguel Klein and Raulino Reitz, who in the mid-twentieth century conducted important research to identify, classify, and describe the vegetation (Veloso & Klein 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1968a, 1968b; Reitz 1965; Klein *et al.* 1978; Klein 1979, 1980). The biggest floristic list of Evergreen Rainforest was made by Klein (1979, 1980), who studied the Itajaí-Açu watershed, where he found approximately 2,000 species of vascular plants. More recently, several studies have described and analyzed species composition in Evergreen Rainforest in SC (e.g. Citadini-Zanette *et al.* 1997; Falkenberg 1999; Negrelle 2006; Klein *et al.* 2007; Colonetti *et al.* 2009; Neves & Zanin 2011). However, despite recent efforts, large-scale studies carried out with comparable sampling design are still scarce. Only recently the assessments of the Floristic and Forest Inventory of Santa Catarina (IFFSC, <<http://www.iff.sc.gov.br>>, Vibrans *et al.* 2010) have covered the entire state of SC with a systematic sampling.

In this study we have aimed to present the current species composition of the Evergreen Rainforest recorded by IFFSC with reference to their ecological traits such as dispersal syndromes, ecological group, and historical records.

Material and Methods

Species data

We obtained species data from the Floristic and Forest Inventory of Santa Catarina (IFFSC) in the area covered by Evergreen Rainforest (see Vibrans *et al.* 2010 for more details about

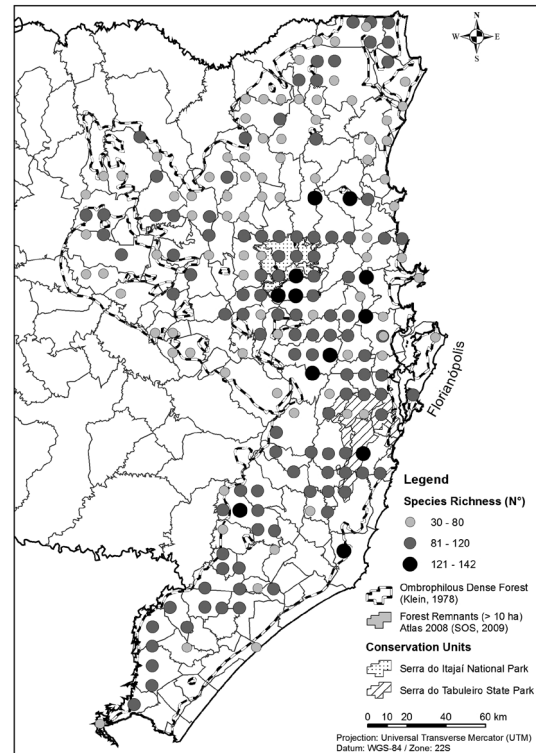


Figure 1 – Sample units from Evergreen Rainforest (ERF) in Santa Catarina state.

sampling design and methods). We included the vascular plants recorded in 202 permanent plots (Fig. 1), systematically distributed over a 10 × 10 km grid as proposed by IFFSC, with 72 ha of total sampled area. All sampled units are located in Evergreen Rainforest, according to Klein (1978). The vegetation classification follows Oliveira-Filho (2009); 34 sampled units were classified as belonging to subtropical lower plains, 89 to subtropical upper plains, 73 to subtropical lower highlands and six to subtropical upper highlands. Five of the sample units were installed in conservation units outside the grid, using the same sampling methods described in Vibrans *et al.* (2010). The sampling effort was different among the component: (1) tree/shrub: individuals with diameter at breast height (DBH) ≥ 10 cm in an area of 4,000 m²; (2) regeneration: individuals with DBH < 10 cm and height ≥ 50 cm in an area of 400 m²; and (3) floristic survey: fertile plants collected within and around the sample units, even outside the criteria listed above, as well as on the access way to the sample units.

The species of components 1 and 2 were also classified in relation to (a) ecological group: pioneer, secondary and climax, according to information available in the literature (Reitz 1965; Reitz *et al.* 1979; Klein 1990), and the field experience of the IFFSC team; (b) seed dispersal mode: anemochoric, zoochoric, and autochoric, following Van der Pijl (1982). The classifications were based on detailed accounts of species life form traits available in the literature (e.g. Reitz 1965; Reitz *et al.* 1979; Klein 1990; Vibrans *et al.* 2012a, 2012b, 2013b, 2013c) or based on the authors' knowledge about species' traits. We indicated all species categorized as threatened according to IUCN (2014), Red Book of Brazilian Flora (Martinelli & Moraes 2013) and MMA (2008).

Only individuals identified at species or genus level were considered in the analysis. When identified at generic level, we included the species in our accounts only if the genus had not yet been cited, in order to avoid overestimation. As we sampled almost 14,000 fertile plants from the component 3, and little more than 11,000 sterile plants from the components 1 and 2, it was not possible to identify all the samples to specific or morphospecies level, and then, we used the aforementioned criteria. Exotic species were excluded of the list (for more details about exotic species see Meyer *et al.* 2012). We adopted classification system APG III (2009) for the angiosperms, with adaptation for the family Peraceae (Davis *et al.* 2007; Souza & Lorenzi 2012; Nikolov *et al.* 2013); Smith *et al.* (2006), with adaptation from Rothfels *et al.* (2012) for ferns, Ollgard (2012) for lycophytes, and Christenhusz *et al.* (2011) for gymnosperms. The spelling of the names followed the List of Species of the Brazilian Flora (2014).

Results

We recorded 1,473 species, consisting of three gymnosperms and 1,470 angiosperms, belonging to 599 genera and 144 botanical families (Tab. 1 and appendix 1 in online version). For the tree-shrub component, we found 567 species, 16 of which are exclusively found in this component. Within the regeneration component, we recorded 635 species, 13 of which exclusive to this component. Moreover, we recorded 1,406 species in the floristic survey component; 750 of these were registered exclusively in this

component (Fig. 2). The minimum and maximum species richness values found per sample unit for the tree-shrub and regeneration components were 30 and 142 (Fig. 1). We found 663 species in the Subtropical Lower Plains, 1,066 in the Upper Plains, 1090 in the Lower Highlands and 288 in the Upper Highlands.

The richest families in species were Orchidaceae (143 species), Myrtaceae (142), Asteraceae (98), Melastomataceae (86), Fabaceae (78), Rubiaceae (65), Solanaceae (61), Bromeliaceae (57), Piperaceae (56), and Lauraceae (52). We found 55 families represented by a single species (See appendix 1 in online version).

We found eight endangered species (MMA 2008, Tab. 2): *Aechmea blumenavii*, *Araucaria angustifolia*, *Billbergia alfonsojoannis*, *Euterpe edulis*, *Heliconia farinosa*, *Ocotea catharinensis*, *O. odorifera*, and *O. porosa*. Moreover, another 43 species were listed in the Red Book of the Brazilian Flora (Martinelli & Moraes 2013), being 23 endangered (EN) and 20 vulnerable (VU). We found 38 of the 128 species listed by the IUCN Redlist (2014) for Santa Catarina (Tab. 2), being eight near threatened (LR/nt), four conservation dependent (LR/cd), 13 least concern (LC), eight vulnerable (VU), four endangered (EN) and one critically endangered (CR).

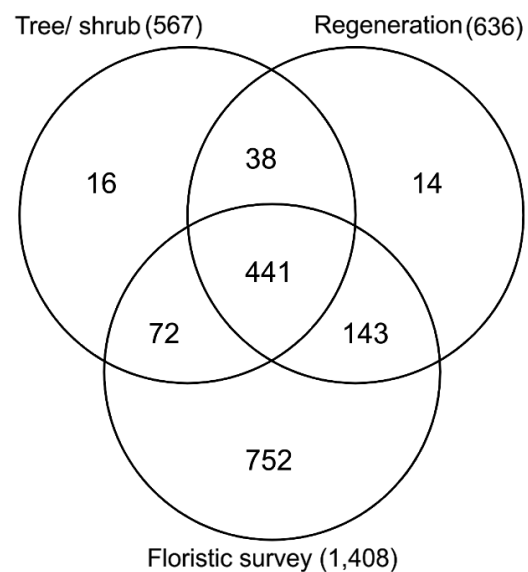


Figure 2 – Venn diagram representing the sampled and shared species in each component (tree-shrub, regeneration and floristic survey).

Table 1 – Summary of floristic species surveys sampled within the Evergreen Rainforest through the Floristic and Forest Inventory of Santa Catarina State.

Category	Number
Families	144
Genus	599
Species	1,473
Gymnosperms species	3
Angiosperms species	1,470
Species in tree/shrub component	567
Species in regeneration component	635
Species in floristic survey component	1,406
Endangered species (MMA 2008)	8
Endangered species (Martinelli & Moraes 2013)	43
Endangered species (IUCN 2014)	38

Of the 723 species of the tree-shrub and regeneration components, 78.0% were zoochoric, 14.8% were anemochoric, and 6.8% were autocoric; we classified 21.4% as pioneer, 48.4% as secondary, and 20.4% as climax species (See appendix 2 in online version). Due to lack of information, 0.4% and 9.8% of species were not classified regarding their dispersion syndrome and ecological group, respectively.

Phanerophytes (trees and shrubs) accounted for 58.7% of the species, followed by terrestrial herbs (18.9%), epiphytes (15.6%), rupicolous (3.6%), climbers (9.8%), and hydrophytes and parasites (0.6%). Among the parasites there were holoparasites such as Balanophoraceae (*Helosis cayennensis*, *Langsdorffia hypogaea*) or mistletoes, belonging to Loranthaceae (*Struthanthus polyrhizus*, *S. vulgaris*, *Tripodanthus acutifolius*) and Santalaceae (*Phoradendron chrysocladon*, *P. crassifolium* and *P. ensifolium*). It is important to emphasize that climbers, rupicolous, parasites, and hydrophytes were assessed occasionally (when fertile) and not systematically as trees and shrubs.

Discussion

According to our results, we found 19% of the vascular species listed to occur in Brazilian Evergreen Rainforest by Stehmann *et al.* (2009). The high species richness found here also shows

the importance of our floristic survey since such a large number of species (752) was recorded only in this type of sampling. The collected specimens account for about 8,315 records in the FURB Herbarium. These data represent an important source of information (Funk *et al.* 2005), available online to researchers for multiple purposes, such as conducting studies on geographic distribution modeling, DNA samples, or population studies. In similar work, Gasper *et al.* (2013a, 2013b) found 925 species in Santa Catarina Mixed Forest and 420 in Seasonal Semideciduous Forest, numbers that together do not reach the diversity sampled here for the Evergreen Rainforest. The most abundant tree-shrub families in Santa Catarina are Asteraceae, Myrtaceae, Fabaceae, and Melastomataceae (Gasper *et al.* 2012), the same of this work. These comparative data appear to support the strong differences between the hinterland forests and the coastal forests noted by other authors such as Oliveira-Filho *et al.* (2006) and Oliveira-Filho *et al.* (2013). The latter state that, while the differences between the coastal forests and the hinterland forests in the tropical zone are due to differences in the annual distribution of rainfall, in the subtropics temperature contrasts are more important, probably because many of the species do not tolerate the cold and frosts that happen periodically in continental climates.

In spite of the high species richness mentioned above, there are at least 150 angiosperm species that were not found during the present survey (most of them phanerophytes) and that were formerly recorded in the Itajaí-Açu watershed Valley (SC) by Klein (1979, 1980). Most of these species have been reported as rare or very rare by the same author. Therefore, these results support the notion that these species are rare, given the large sampling effort applied by IFFSC. Moreover, it seems rather apparent that the methodology did not satisfactorily cover riparian zones, so that some species were not recorded, such as rheophyte *Raulinoa echinata* R.S.Cowan, *Dyckia ibiramensis* Reitz, *Dalechampia riparia* L.B.Sm. & Downs, endemic to a small area in the Itajaí-Açu watershed (Reitz 1983). On the other hand, the presence of species often related to Mixed Forest, such as *Araucaria angustifolia*, is due to ecotones within the sampling areas.

Of the eight endangered species, *A. angustifolia*, *O. catharinensis*, *O. odorifera*, and *O. porosa* fall into this category due to intense

Table 2 – Endangered species according the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2014), the Red Book of Brazilian Flora (Martinelli & Moraes 2013), and the Official List of Endangered Species of the Brazilian Flora (MMA 2008). CR: Critically endangered; EN: Endangered; LC: Least concern; LR/cd: Lower risk/conservation dependent; LR/nt: Lower risk/near threatened; VU: Vulnerable.

Endangered species	IUCN (2014)	Martinelli & Moraes (2013)	MMA (2008)
<i>Aechmea blumenavii</i>			x
<i>Aechmea kertesziae</i>		EN	
<i>Andira fraxinifolia</i>	LC		
<i>Araucaria angustifolia</i>	CR	EN	x
<i>Asplundia polymera</i>		VU	
<i>Aureliana fasciculata</i>	LR/cd		
<i>Balfourodendron riedelianum</i>	EN		
<i>Bauhinia forficata</i>	LC		
<i>Begonia per-dusenii</i>		EN	
<i>Begonia stenolepis</i>		EN	
<i>Billbergia alfonsijoannis</i>			x
<i>Brosimum glaziovii</i>	EN		
<i>Buchenavia kleinii</i>	LR/nt		
<i>Calyptranthes hatschbachii</i>		EN	
<i>Calyptranthes pileata</i>		VU	
<i>Campomanesia reitziana</i>	LR/nt	VU	
<i>Cattleya intermedia</i>		VU	
<i>Cedrela fissilis</i>	EN	VU	
<i>Chionanthus filiformis</i>	LR/nt		
<i>Chrysophyllum inornatum</i>	LR/cd		
<i>Chrysophyllum viride</i>	LR/nt		
<i>Cinnamomum hatschbachii</i>		VU	
<i>Dendrophorbium catharinense</i>		VU	
<i>Epidendrum proligerum</i>	LC		
<i>Eugenia imaruiensis</i>		EN	
<i>Eugenia malacantha</i>		EN	
<i>Eugenia neotristis</i>		EN	
<i>Eugenia pruinosa</i>		EN	
<i>Eugenia sclerocalyx</i>		VU	
<i>Euterpe edulis</i>		VU	x
<i>Grandiphyllum divaricatum</i>		VU	
<i>Grandiphyllum hians</i>		VU	
<i>Habenaria parviflora</i>	LC		
<i>Hatiora gaertneri</i>	VU		
<i>Heliconia farinosa</i>	LC		x

Endangered species	IUCN (2014)	Martinelli & Moraes (2013)	MMA (2008)
<i>Ilex paraguariensis</i>	LR/nt		
<i>Inga lentiscifolia</i>	VU		
<i>Leandra hatschbachii</i>		EN	
<i>Lepismium cruciforme</i>	LC		
<i>Lepismium houlettianum</i>	LC		
<i>Lobelia langeana</i>		EN	
<i>Malaxis jaraguae</i>		VU	
<i>Manilkara subsericea</i>	LR/cd		
<i>Mimosa bimucronata</i>	LC		
<i>Mollinedia eugeniiifolia</i>		EN	
<i>Mollinedia luizae</i>		VU	
<i>Myrceugenia bracteosa</i>		EN	
<i>Myrceugenia foveolata</i>		EN	
<i>Myrceugenia hoehnei</i>		VU	
<i>Myrceugenia kleinii</i>		VU	
<i>Myrcia diaphana</i>		VU	
<i>Myrcia rupicola</i>		EN	
<i>Myrciaria plinioides</i>		VU	
<i>Neomitranthes cordifolia</i>	VU	VU	
<i>Ocotea catharinensis</i>	VU	VU	x
<i>Ocotea odorifera</i>		EN	x
<i>Ocotea porosa</i>	VU	EN	x
<i>Plinia edulis</i>		VU	
<i>Podocarpus lambertii</i>	LR/nt		
<i>Podocarpus sellowii</i>	EN		
<i>Renealmia brasiliensis</i>		EN	
<i>Rhipsalis campos-portoana</i>	LC		
<i>Rhipsalis elliptica</i>	LC		
<i>Rhipsalis floccosa</i>	LC		
<i>Rhipsalis pachyptera</i>	LC		
<i>Rhipsalis puniceodiscus</i>	LC		
<i>Roupala asplenioides</i>		EN	
<i>Solanum bullatum</i>	LR/cd		
<i>Solanum pinetorum</i>	LR/nt		
<i>Symplocos corymboclados</i>		EN	
<i>Terminalia reitzii</i>	VU		
<i>Trichilia casaretti</i>	VU		
<i>Trichilia pallens</i>	LR/nt		

Endangered species	IUCN (2014)	Martinelli & Moraes (2013)	MMA (2008)
<i>Trichilia silvatica</i>	VU		
<i>Verbenoxylum reitzii</i>		EN	
<i>Virola bicuhyba</i>		EN	
<i>Wittrockia superba</i>		EN	

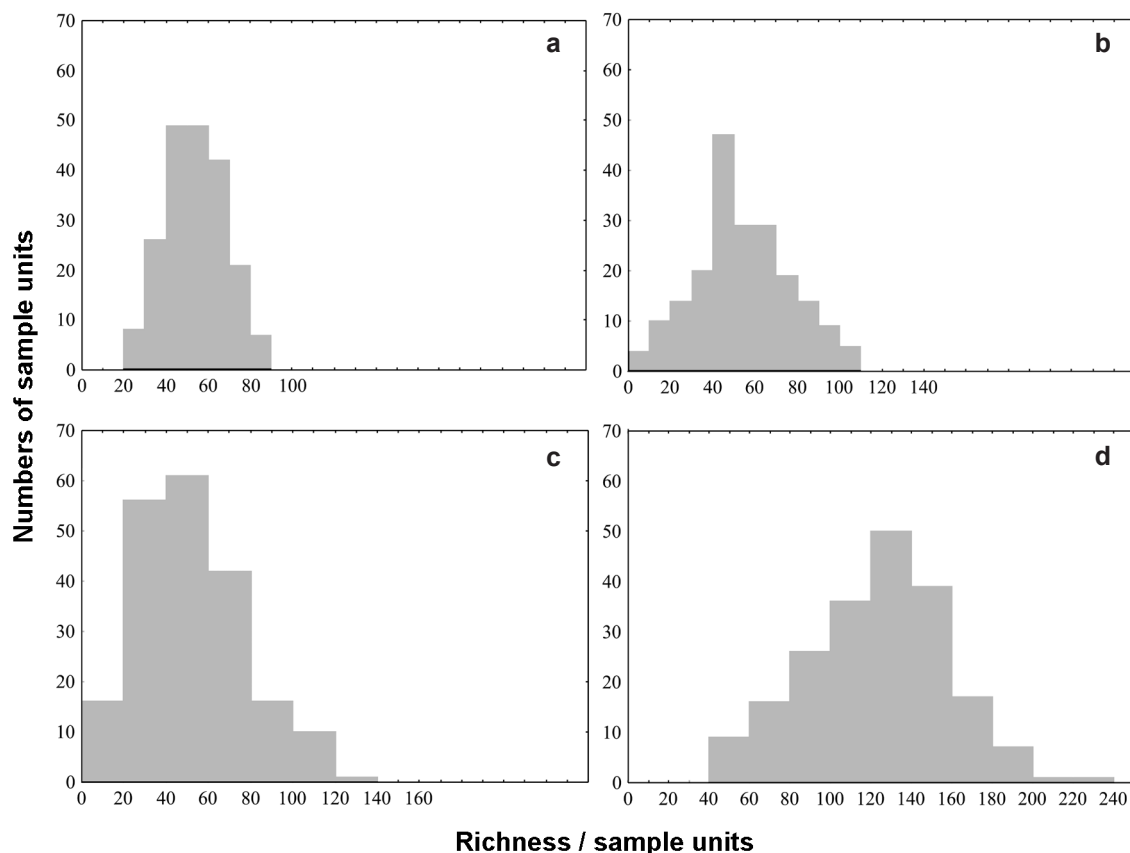


Figure 3 – Frequency distribution of the richness in the subplots distributed in Evergreen Rainforest (ERF). a. tree-shrub component; b. regeneration; c. floristic survey; d. total.

exploitation of their valuable timber; *O. odorifera* has also been the target of essential oil extraction (Reitz *et al.* 1979; Martinelli & Moraes 2013). *Euterpe edulis* is threatened by the intense extraction of palm heart, used in the regional cuisine (Reis *et al.* 1996; Fernandes 2000). Apart from the exploitation of these species, habitat loss caused by deforestation and fragmentation led to population shrinkage and high risk of extinction (Martinelli & Moraes 2013).

In conserved tropical forests, often 75% or more of the species are zoochoric (Howe & Smallwood 1982). However, the percentage of each dispersal

type varies in relation to the vegetation type, with an expected higher proportion of animal-dispersed species in moist environments, while anemochoric and autochoric species are more abundant in environments with reduced precipitation and increased seasonality (Silva & Rodal 2009). We found 78% of zoochoric dispersal, the percentage that was expected since the Evergreen Rainforest is the best conserved forest type of Santa Catarina and the climatic conditions are favorable for this type of dispersal. The successional stage also influences the occurrence of different dispersion strategies, hence

forest remnants in advanced regeneration or primary stages usually have a higher number of zoochoric species (Howe & Smallwood 1982; Tabarelli & Peres 2002). For the Evergreen Rainforest of Santa Catarina, it seems that the successional stages are clearly linked to the ratio of dispersal syndromes. However, the percentage of zoochoric species corroborates what is expected for tropical forests and what has been found in other studies (Carvalho 2010; Lima *et al.* 2011.). The proportion of each syndrome may change with the regeneration dynamic, but is also subject to anthropogenic pressures such as selective logging and hunting (Tabarelli & Peres 2002).

There was an uneven distribution of biodiversity throughout the study area (Fig. 1 and 3). Some of the richest areas were located around protected areas such as the Parque Nacional da Serra do Itajaí and Parque Estadual do Tabuleiro; land use policies in their vicinity could induce the spreading of viable populations of these species from inside the protected areas to their currently impoverished surroundings.

Conclusion

The methodical floristic sampling of Evergreen Rainforest by IFFSC is the first of its kind performed in the country and has demonstrated the importance of systematic and unbiased sampling. It also recorded that species richness sampling considerably increases by recording/collecting fertile specimens outside sample plots primarily used to assess forest structure. The study proved that Santa Catarina is a vascular plant diversity hotspot within the Atlantic Forest domain. As a systematic assessment, the present study did not sample special habitats like small-scale riparian vegetation, which must be sampled as a complement to this data-set.

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