

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE OF LARGE NATIVE ARBORESCENT PALMS (ARECACEAE) USING DATA FROM THE FLORISTIC AND FOREST INVENTORY OF SANTA CATARINA, BRAZIL

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The Brazilian state of Santa Catarina is a pioneer in the study of its forests and flora and the first to complete a state-wide Floristic and Forest Inventory. Arecaceae family is one of the most important in the world, representing an economic alternative for people, and an important component of forest environments. This abstract presents a study of large native arborescent palm (Arecaceae) communities in Santa Catarina and highlights the range and distribution of seven palm species: *Astrocaryum aculeatissimum* (Schott) Burret, *Attalea dubia* Burret, *Butia catarinensis* Noblick & Lorenzi, *Butia eriospatha* Becc., *Euterpe edulis* Mart., *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Cham.) Glassman and *Trithrinax acanthocoma* Drude. Data were derived from the Floristic and Forest Inventory of Santa Catarina (IFFSC), carried out in all forest remnants larger than 10 ha across the state. All large arborescent palms with Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) \geq 10 cm were sampled, and phytosociological parameters including density, frequency and dominance were calculated for each species. Large arborescent palms were recorded in 268 Sample Units (SU), or 61% of all SU, from the following species: *A. dubia*, *B. catarinensis*, *B. eriospatha*, *E. edulis*, *S. romanzoffiana* and *T. acanthocoma*. *Astrocaryum aculeatissimum* did not appear in the inventory, although other reports confirm its presence in Santa Catarina. According to the IFFSC, the most abundant species in Santa Catarina was *E. edulis* (displayed the highest density as well as the highest frequency) followed by *S. romanzoffiana* (largest DBH, tallest height and greatest dominance). Among Santa Catarina's native palms, *E. edulis* and *S. romanzoffiana* were the most abundant and widely distributed across the state, while *A. dubia*, *B. catarinensis*, *B. eriospatha* and *T. acanthocoma* were relatively rare and very selective species. (CAPES).

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