**LICHEN COMMUNITIES IN TATI YUPI NATURAL RESERVE, ALTO PARANA, PARAGUAY: PELIMINARY RESULTS**

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The Refugio Biológico Tati Yupi protected area was created by Itaipu Binacional in 1984, it is located in the Eastern Region of Paraguay, Hernandarias district, Department of Alto Parana and covers a 3866.14 ha area. On a national context, the ecoregional classification proposed by the World Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean is strongly accepted, according to which the reserve area is located inside the Atlantic Forest ecoregion; whose location corresponds to the Alto Paraná phytoregion. The aim is to contribute to the knowledge of the corticolous lichen diversity in the Refugio Biológico Tati Yupi. Six collection sites were selected: three forested communities called permanent plots, two communities with anthropic influence and a coastal forest community. To determine the presence and identity of secondary metabolites spot reaction tests with potassium hydroxide 10% and sodium hypochlorite 1% were carried out, plus ultraviolet light fluorescence test and thin layer chromatography technique were implemented. Specialized bibliography was used for the taxonomic identification of samples. The total number of taxa identified so far is 11 families, 25 genera and 62 species. The mayor morphological diversity was founded in communities wooded with and riverside and human influence, being 2% filamentose, 9% jelly morphotype, 13% crustose, 26% fructicose and 50 % foliose, while in the permanent forest plots crustose growth species are predominant representing 92% and foliose species 8% of the morphological diversity. Light, temperature and humidity conditions were important to determine the composition of the community studied. The work establishes a first approach to the knowledge of lichen diversity inside the Atlantic Forest of Paraguay, represented in the Refugio Biológico Tati Yupi, and will also allow the development of a baseline regarding epiphytic lichen diversity in forests with different management types within the protected area.

**Keywords:** corticolous lichen, diversity, Refugio Biológico