**LICHENS FROM RESTINGA VEGETATION OF NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL: AN UNDEREXPLORED RICHENESS**

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Lichens are the result of a symbiotic association between fungal species and microalgae and/or cyanobacteria. The Restinga Vegetation (RV) is considered to be a habitat associated with the Atlantic Forest. In fact, RV is a type of vegetation that is established in the coastal area of sand deposits. RV is distributed along to the entire coastal area of Brazil, being predominant on Rio Grande do Sul and in the river delta of the most extensive rivers in the Southeast and Northeast of Brazil. Despite being an important ecosystem, RV is highly explored by human activities and just smalls fragments can be found in Brazil, and the studies about the lichen biota of those areas were carried out mostly in the South and Southeast. In contrast, the RV from the Northeast of Brazil are underexplored until the present moment. The goal of this work is to present an assessment of the crustose lichen species from different areas of RV from the Northeast of Brazil. Eight areas were studied covering six states of Northeast of Brazil. Samples were removed using knife and hammer, pressed and dried at room temperature, and identified using specific keys and revised by specialist. As a result, 208 species were identified distributed in 60 genera and 25 family, and one new species to science, *Gassicurtia restingiana* D.S.Andrade, M.Cáceres & Aptroot, sp. nov., already published (Andrade et al. 2020). Highlighting the first lichen investigation to Massarandupió, 47 species were identified, distributed in 25 genera and 17 family, and the most abundant genera are *Graphidaceae*, *Arthoniaceae* and *Caliciaceae*. Since those areas retain an underexplored richness and due to the continuous anthropic actions, these results adds to the knowledge of RV diversity, reinforce the urge for researches focused on areas underexplored and to the establishment of law protection to these areas.

**Keywords:** Lichen Biota. Massarandupió. Biodiversity.