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Rescuing *Cattleya granulosa* Lindley in the wild

The Orchid Society of Rio Grande do Norte State, Brazil, through its Group of Experimental Interactive Research, has been studying the occurrence of *Cattleya granulosa* Lindley, 1842, specifically in the coastal sand plain vegetation (“restinga”) and in remaining patches of Atlantic Rainforest. The expansion of urban boundaries and the construction of infrastructure for tourism in recent years, have been added to traditionally destructive uses of the environment, making the “restinga” one of the most threatened ecosystems in Brazil. The proposal includes mapping of populations and of individuals of *Cattleya granulosa*, analyzing the biometry of the plants and analyzing the soil nutrients around the plants. The main goal is to characterize the habitats where this species grows, in order to make models for their introduction in other areas and to be able to protect them in areas of ecological stress. The preliminary results from these studies are already being used for other programs of the society: 1) project “adopt an orchid”; 2) environmental programs at local schools and 3) rescue actions in areas to be used for urban developments and introduction of those plants in ecological reserves.