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### **The orchid flora of Rio Grande do Sul (southern Brazil): taxonomic and floristic updating, with remarks on biogeography**

The Brazilian State of Rio Grande do Sul (RS) is biogeographically important for three main reasons: 1) it is the southernmost limit of the Atlantic Rain Forest (the “Mata Atlântica”) Biome, 2) the State holds the Pampa Biome, a vegetation assemblage restricted to this Brazilian region, and 3) there is a significant part of the Flora (orchids and other angiosperms as well) with clear andean affinities, a fact already highlighted by Father Balduino Rambo (Rambo 1954). To date, a comprehensive, taxonomically updated account of the orchid flora of RS is lacking. The work of Pabst & Dungs (1975-1977) for the whole Brazilian Orchid Flora is clearly outdated in taxonomy, distribution data and species numbers. Therefore, the main aim of this contribution is to provide a taxonomically updated account of the Orchid Flora of RS, that could be used as a framework for future research.

Fieldwork is being performed in several localities of RS. Herbarium vouchers are being deposited at the ICN and UNIVATES herbaria. In some cases, plants are kept alive in a glasshouse until they flower and can be properly identified. The major and more representative herbaria are being consulted (ICN, PACA, UNIJUI, UNIVATES, etc). The taxonomic concepts of Chase (2005) and Chase et al (2005) are being followed. Key

Our current estimate indicates that RS holds ca. 358 orchid species distributed in three subfamilies: Vanilloideae (4 spp.), Orchidoideae (85 spp.) and Epidendroideae (269 spp.), but this figure will slightly change after herbarium work is finished. Subtribes with expressive numbers are Orchidinae (26 Habenaria spp.), Spiranthinae (45 spp.), Pleurothallidinae (77 spp.) and Oncidiinae (58 spp.). From a biogeographic point of view, the presence of Codonorchideae (1 species, *Codonorchis canisioi*) and Chloraeinae (5 spp.) is to be highlighted. In addition, we have confirmed the presence of *Elleanthus brasiliensis* for the RS orchid flora. To our knowledge, this may be the southernmost record for subtribe Sobraliinae.