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"Hacia nuevos desafíos"

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A DATASET OF EPIPHYTES SPECIES FROM THE ATLANTIC FOREST

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Epiphytes is one of the frequently ignored or undervalued life forms. Epiphytes in the Atlantic Forest present recent radiation and have a higher endemic degree than others vascular plants. All data compiled here comes from three main sources: herbarium data, published sources and unpublished data. Published data is from 150 references, being mostly from peer reviewed articles (71%), followed by thesis (24%) and books (5%). We compiled a dataset composed by 74,739 holo/hemiepiphytes records from 73 data files, in 68,006 localities in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, from 1824 to early 2018. Most of the records in this dataset were from qualitative data (occurrence, 85%), well distributed along all Atlantic forest, and only few quantitative records (15%), which were concentrated in South and Southeastern region. For quantitative records, the most common sampling method was tree (64%), followed by plot (24%) and transect (12%). Angiosperms (83%) were the most frequently registered group, being Bromeliaceae and Orchidaceae families with the greater number of records. Ferns and Lycophytes presented fewer records than Angiosperms, being the family Polypodiaceae the most registered family, and more concentrated in South and Southeastern region. Avascular plants, fungi and lichens were the least, being the family Lejeuneaceae the most registered family, present very few and disjunct records, a little more concentrated in the Northeastern region of Atlantic forest. Organize epiphyte data scattered in official and gray literature could help advancing the knowledges in epiphyte biology and ecology, as well as macroecological and biogeographical patterns.