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Lists of Species

Floristic List from a Caatinga Remnant in Poço Verde, Sergipe, Brazil

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Abstract: A study of the vegetation in a 71,42 ha fragment of Caatinga in Poço Verde, state of Sergipe, was carried out, and the occurrence of 170 species, 129 genera and 46 botanical families was recorded. Fabaceae (25 spp.); Euphorbiaceae (16 spp.); Solanaceae (nine spp.); Poaceae (eight spp.); Malvaceae (seven spp.); and Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, Convolvulaceae, Lamiaceae and Verbenaceae (six spp.) were the most represented families, corresponding to 55.8% of the sampled flora. The genera which represented greater floristic richness were: *Croton* (eight spp.), *Solanum* (six spp.), *Senna* and *Mimosa* (four spp.). We found 39 species of trees, 47 of shrubs, 15 of lianas and 69 of herbs. Among the species found in the studied area, 10.2% are considered endemic to the Caatinga. Compared to other areas of Caatinga, the studied area is characterized by a dry and dense forest which has suffered a medium impact due to plant extraction, being found today in a natural state of regeneration.

Introduction

The Caatinga is the type of vegetation found in the semi-arid part of northeastern Brazil, occupying an area of approximately 734.478 Km^2 (UFPE 2002), which corresponds to 10% of the Brazilian territory (Ab'Saber 2003; Fernandes 2003). It covers parts of the states of Piauí, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Sergipe, Bahia and the northern part of Minas Gerais; it is considered the main terrestrial ecosystem in the northeastern region of Brazil.

The Caatinga began to be more studied only in the last decade. Previously, it was seen as a poor ecosystem regarding its biodiversity. Until today, less is known about its biodiversity when compared to other Brazilian biomes (Santos *et al.* 2011) and although taxonomically many species have been described, little is known about their physiological aspects (Leal *et al.* 2003).

The floristic study of a forest represents the initial step towards acquiring knowledge because, associated to information about its structure and dynamics, it provides a base that subsidizes a better biogeographical understanding, the conservation of genetic resources, the conservation of similar areas, and the restoration of degraded forest fragments, contributing substantially towards their management or towards the conservation of the fragments (Arruda and Daniel 2005; Moro and Martins 2011).

This study aimed to describe the floristic composition of a Caatinga fragment, located at "Santa Maria da Lage" settlement, in Poço Verde municipality, state of Sergipe, northeastern Brazil, with the objective of recording the floristic composition of the species in the studied area, especially based on data from taxonomic studies. The results of this work will expand the knowledge about the native vegetation of the municipality and provide subsidies to assist future projects for recovering and maintaining the Caatinga of the region.

Material and Methods

Study Area

The studied area (geographic coordinates 10°42'11"S and 38°11'06"W) is located in the municipality of Poço Verde, having a mean altitude of 273 meters. This municipality is situated in the geographic mesoregion of the *Sertão* of Sergipe and in the micro-region of Tobias Barreto and Simão Dias. According to IBGE (2008), this municipality has an area of 380.7 Km^2, which corresponds to 18.47% of the micro-region and 1.72% of the state of Sergipe. Poço Verde has a slight highland relief in the eastern half, bordering other highlands such as Caraíba, Poço Dantas and São José. The predominant climate is hot, megathermal semi-arid with a transition to dry sub-humid. The annual average rainfall is 786.5 mm, with a rainy period between March and July. The temperature varies between 38°C in the hottest months and 17ºC during the coldest months (IBGE 2008).

Inserted in the rural area of Poço Verde, the studied remnant of Caatinga is located on the Santa Maria da Lage farm, which was dispossessed for Agrarian reform purposes on October 24th 1996 and taken over by the INCRA (Brazilian Institute for Land Management) on December 31st 1997. The farm is located about 9 Km away from the town centre. The settlement has an area of 433 hectares and is divided into 26 family agricultural units, a space destined for the construction of an urban nucleus, two legal reserves, and five collective areas for exploitation, mainly with extensive cattle farming and subsistence cultivation, such as corn and beans (INCRA 2007).

In the settlement there is an area of about 71.42 ha (called "Reserva Legal") which is destined to protect the vegetation. This area was already explored, being characterized by a dry and dense forest, which has suffered medium intensity impacts, such as selective logging, but is now in a natural stage of regeneration.

Collection of data

The collection of the botanical material was carried out between the months of October 2009 and November 2010, registering plants with herbaceous, shrubby and arboreal habits. Reproductive samples of all species were collected, following the usual procedures suggested by Mori *et al.* (1989), with an effort to include the largest number of species representing plants of all habits. The collected botanical materials are deposited in the Herbarium of the Federal University of Sergipe (ASE).

The identifications were made through comparisons with existing exsiccates in the Herbarium ASE and consultations of the literature and specialists. The classification of the species into families followed the system of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group III (APG III 2009).

Results and Discussion

A total of 243 plants, belonging to 170 species, distributed into 129 genera and 46 botanical families (Table 1) were collected, of which 153 taxa were identified to the species level.

The richest families were: Fabaceae (25 species: Caesalpinioideae with eight species, Mimosoideae with 13, and Faboideae with four); Euphorbiaceae (16); Solanaceae (nine); Poaceae (eight); Malvaceae (seven); Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, Convolvulaceae, Lamiaceae and Verbenaceae (six); Acanthaceae, Anacardiaceae, Araceae, Orchidaceae and Rubiaceae (five); Bromeliaceae and Cactaceae (four); and, Boraginaceae, Capparaceae and Sapindaceae (three), altogether representing 79.4% of the sampled flora. Moreover, 20 families had only one species in the studied area and five families had only two species. The first two families were also the most representative in the survey carried out in the Caatinga of Pernambuco by Alcoforado-Filho et al (2003).

The families Fabaceae and Euphorbiaceae are often found in studies carried out in other areas of Caatinga (Araújo *et al.* 1995; Alcoforado-Filho *et al.* 2003). These results confirm the observations by Rodal *et al.* (1992) who indicated these as the main families for the Caatinga, in number of genera, species and abundance of plants. Pereira *et al.* (2001) highlighted that the occurrence of the Rubiaceae family was also recorded in the woody component of other areas of Caatinga, but only in areas of higher humidity.

According to Andrade *et al.* (2005), *Myracrodruon urundeuva* Allemão, *Commiphora leptophloeos* (Mart.) J.B. Gillett and *Capparis flexuosa* L. are more commonly found in protected areas or in well conserved forests and are rarely found in strongly disturbed sites. These species were found in the present study, which may indicate that the area is under recovery.

Among the species found in the studied area, 10.2% of the total is considered endemic to the Caatinga, e.g.: *Aspidosperma pyrifolium* Mart., *Commiphora leptophloeos* (Mart.) J.B. Gillett, *Cereus jamacaru* DC, *Maytenus rigida* Mart., *Jatropha mollissima* (Pohl) Baill. and *Ziziphus joazeiro* Mart. (Giulietti *et al.* 2002).

The families with the highest number of genera were Fabaceae (18), Euphorbiaceae and Malvaceae (seven each), Poaceae and Asteraceae (six each), Apocynaceae, Orchidaceae and Rubiaceae (five each), and Anacardiaceae, Araceae, Cactaceae and Verbenaceae (four each). Twenty three families (50%) had only one genus. The richest genera were: *Croton*, with eight species; *Solanum,* with six; *Senna* and *Mimosa,* with four; and *Ruellia, Hyptis, Jatropha, Cnidoscolus, Capparis, Mimosa and Lantana,* with three species each. The other genera (108) were represented by one or two species. The high frequency of representatives of the genus *Croton*, especially in the understory, confirms the importance of the *Euphorbiaceae* family in the Caatinga.

The habits found were trees, shrubs, lianas, and herbs, with the herbaceous component representing the largest number of species (69 species or 40% of the total flora) distributed into 28 families. The richest families in the non-woody component were Poaceae, with seven species, and Asteraceae, Lamiaceae and Verbenaceae, with six species each (Table 1). The high percentage of herbaceous habits found in the area demonstrates the importance of this component in the protection of the soil and in the availability of resources for the local fauna.

The arboreal and shrubby components were represented by 39 and 47 species, respectively. For the arboreal component, the most representative families were Fabaceae, with seven species, and Anacardiaceae, with five species. The most notable arboreal elements were *Aspidosperma pyrifolium* (Apocynaceae), *Poincianella pyramidalis* (Fabaceae) and *Capparis jacobinae* (Capparaceae), cited in most of the surveys carried out in the Caatinga vegetation from northeastern Brazil (Araújo *et al.* 1995; Ferraz *et al.* 1998). Besides these species, the presence of *Psidium schenckianum* (Myrtaceae) was recorded, even though it is more common in wet mountain forests ("brejos de altitude"). This probably occurred as a result of the higher local humidity. The occurrence of this species was also observed by Alcoforado-Filho *et al.* (2003) in a Caatinga site in the state of Pernambuco.

Regarding the shrubby extract, the more relevant families were: Euphorbiaceae and Fabaceae, with 14 and 11 species, respectively, representing species common to other areas of the Caatinga. Giulietti *et al.* (2002) observed that Euphorbiaceae presented the highest number of species among shrubs (Kent and Coker 1992) in less dry areas of thorny deciduous vegetation, being substituted by cacti in drier areas. Regarding the 15 species of climbers (8.8% of the total recorded species), these were distributed among eight families, of which Fabaceae was the richest, represented by three species. Thus, contrary to what has been suggested in the literature (Rizzini 1979), the semi-arid vegetation presents a considerable number of species in this component.

The studied Caatinga fragment presents a high diversity of species. Besides the typical species of the Caatinga vegetation, species that are generally found in wetter areas contributed towards a richer flora than most of the studied areas of Caatinga in the state of Sergipe.

Table 1. Species list with popular name, habits and voucher numbers in the ASE herbarium, recorded in the Caatinga forest fragment from Santa Maria da Lage settlement, Poço Verde municipality, state of Sergipe, Brazil.

FAMILY/SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT	VOUCHER
Acanthaceae			
Justicia sp.	-	shrub	ASE 17863
Poikilacanthus harleyi Wassh.	-	herb	ASE 17820
Ruellia asperula (Mart. and Nees) Lindau	camaratu	shrub	ASE 16049
Ruellia bahiensis (Nees) Morong	-	shrub	ASE 17814
Ruellia geminiflora Kunth	-	shrub	ASE 17812
Alstroemeriaceae			
Bomarea edulis (Tussac.) Herb.	-	herb	ASE 17916
Amaranthaceae			
Althernanthera tenella Colla	-	shrub	ASE 17636
Anacardiaceae			
Myracrodruon urundeuva Allemão	aroeira	tree	ASE 17961
Schinopsis brasiliensis Engl.	braúna	tree	ASE 17987
Spondias mombin L.	cajazeira	tree	ASE 16069
Spondias tuberosa Arr. Cam	umbuzeiro	tree	ASE 16063
Thyrsodium spruceanum Benth.	catingaíba	tree	ASE 17985
Apiaceae			
Foeniculum vulgare Mill.	endro	herb	ASE 17809
Apocynaceae			
Aspidosperma pyrifolium Mart.	pereiro	tree	ASE 16060
Mandevilla microphylla (Stadelm.) M. F. Sales and Kinoshita Gouvêa	-	herb	ASE 17806
Marsdenia altissima (Jacq.) Dugand	-	liana	ASE 20408
Matelea ganglinosa (Vell.) Rapini	-	herb	ASE 17983
Matelea maritima (Jacq.) Woodson	-	herb	ASE 17983
Matelea nigra (Decne.) Morillo and Fontella	-	herb	ASE 17988
Ditassa sp.	-	herb	ASE 17917
Araceae			
Monstera adansonii Schott	-	herb	ASE 16056
Taccarum ulei Engl. and K. Krause	milho de cobra	herb	ASE 16516
Colocasia sp.	banana de macaco	herb	ASE 16517
Spathicarpa sp.	-	herb	ASE 17831
Araceae sp.	-	herb	ASE 17835
Arecaceae			
Syagrus coronata (Mart.) Becc.	licuri	tree	ASE 20411
Aristolochiaceae			
Aristolochia sp.	-	shrub	ASE 18792
Asteraceae			
Baccharis sp.	-	herb	ASE 17997
Bidens pilosa L.	carrapicho-de-agulha	herb	ASE 17974
Centratherum punctatum Cass.	cega-ovelha	herb	ASE 17861
Emilia sonchifolia (L.) DC.	carrapicho	herb	ASE 17932
Tridax procumbens L.	-	herb	ASE 17830
Vernonia remotiflora Rich.	-	shrub	ASE 17976
Begoniaceae			
Begonia ulmifolia Willd.	-	shrub	ASE 17946
Bignoniaceae			
Handroanthus impetiginosus Mart. *ex* DC.) Mattos	pau d'arco	tree	ASE 17973
Boraginaceae			
Heliotropium indicum L.	crista de galo	herb	ASE 16064
Varronia leucocephala (Moric.) J.S. Mill.	pau de sapo	herb	ASE 17825
Cordia globosa (Jacq.) Kunth	-	shrub	ASE 17851
Bromeliaceae			
Aechmea aquilega (Salisb.) Griseb.	gravatá	herb	ASE 16511
Aechmea lingulata (L.) Baker	-	herb	ASE 16071
Bromelia laciniosa Mart.		herb	ASE 20428
Neoglaziovia variegata (Arruda) Mez	crauá	herb	ASE 17815
Burseraceae			
Commiphora leptophloeos (Mart.) J.B. Gillett	imburana	tree	ASE 17979

Table 1. ***Continued.***

FAMILY/SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT	VOUCHER
Cactaceae			
Cereus jamacaru DC.	mandacaru	tree	ASE 16525
Melocactus zhentneri	coroa-de-frade	herb	Observed
Pilosocereus sp.		tree	
Tacinga palmadora (Britton and Rose) N.P. Taylor and Stuppy	mandacaru miúdo	herb	ASE 17952
Capparaceae			
Capparis flexuosa L.	feijão de jacu	tree	ASE 16045
Capparis jacobinae Moric. *ex* Eichler	icozinho	tree	ASE 16055
Capparis yco Mart.	icó	tree	ASE 16054
Celastraceae			
Maytenus rigida Mart.	pau de colher	tree	ASE16051
Convolvulaceae			
Cuscuta americana L.		herb	ASE 18786
Ipomoea brasiliensis (L.) Sweet	-	liana	ASE 17848
Ipomoea brasiliana Meisn.	cipó branco	liana	ASE 16048
Ipomoea hederifolia L.	-	herb	ASE 17943
Jacquemontia sp.	-	herb	ASE 17943
Merremia umbellata (L.) Hallier f.	-	liana	ASE 17989
Operculina macrocarpa (Linn) Urb**.**	-	herb	ASE 17813
Cucurbitaceae			
Cucumis dipsaceus Ehrenb.	-	herb	ASE 16530
Gurania bignoniacea (Poepp. and Endl.) C. Jeffrey	-	liana	ASE 18787
Dioscoreaceae			
Dioscorea campestris Griseb.	-	herb	ASE 17838
Euphorbiaceae			
Cnidoscolus phyllacanthus Mull Arg.	cansanção	shrub	ASE 16057
Cnidoscolus urens (L.) Arthur	cansanção	shrub	ASE 16522
Cnidoscolus vitifolius (Mill.) Pohl	favela	shrub	ASE 16057
Croton campestris A. St.-Hil.	velame branco	shrub	ASE 18788
Croton grewioides Baill.	velame	herb	ASE 17934
Croton heliotropiifolius Kunth	quebra facão	shrub	ASE16058
Croton sonderianus Müll. Arg**.**	marmeleiro b ranco	shrub	ASE 17956
Croton tetradenius Baill.	velandinho-de-cheiro	shrub	ASE 16518
Croton urticifolius Lam.	marmeleiro	shrub	ASE 17915
Dalechampia scandens L.	-	liana	ASE 17866
Euphorbia insulana Müll. Arg.	-	herb	ASE 17990
Jatropha gossypiifolia L.	pinhão manso	shrub	ASE 16521
Jatropha mollissima (Pohl) Baill.	pinhão bravo	shrub	ASE 16043
Jatropha ribifolia (Pohl) Baill.	pinhão branco	shrub	ASE 16062
Manihot dichotoma Ule	mandioca brava	shrub	ASE 16526
Sapium glandulosum (L.) Morong	pau de leite	tree	ASE 17840
Fabaceae			
Acacia bahiensis Benth.	espinheiro	shrub	ASE 16514
Aeschynomene ciliata Vogel	-	liana	ASE 17868
Albizia polycephala (Benth.) Killip	angico branco	tree	ASE 20425
Amburana cearensis (Allemão) A.C. Sm.	amburana	shrub	ASE 20419
Anadenanthera colubrina (Vell.) Brenan	angico	tree	ASE 17959
Bauhinia cheilantha (Bong.) Steud.	mororó	shrub	ASE 17858
Caesalpinia ferrea Mart.	pau ferro	tree	ASE 17958
Canavalia brasiliensis Mart. ex Benth.	-	liana	ASE 17853
Chaetocalyx brasiliensis (Vogel) Benth.	-	shrub	ASE 18798
Desmanthus virgatus (L.) Willd.	inhadê	shrub	ASE 17968
Dioclea sp.	-	liana	ASE 16519
Fabaceae sp.1		herb	ASE 17821
Mimosa acutistipula (Mart.) Benth.	jurema branca	tree	ASE 18000
Mimosa arenosa (Willd.) Poir.	-	shrub	ASE 17822
Mimosa quadrivalvis L.	serraguela	shrub	ASE 17994
Parapiptadenia zehntneri (Harms) M.P.Lima and H.C.Lima	angico vermelho	tree	ASE 16059

Table 1. ***Continued.***

FAMILY/SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT	VOUCHER
Pithecellobium diversifolium Benth.	carcarazeiro	shrub	ASE 16046
Poincianella pyramidalis (Tul.) L.P. Queiroz	catingueira	tree	ASE 16066
Senegalia bahiensis (Benth.) Seigler and Ebinger	calombi branco	shrub	ASE 17847
Senegalia tenuifolia (L.) Britton and Rose	calombi	shrub	ASE 17811
Senna alata (L.) Roxb.	canudinho	shrub	ASE 17936
Senna cana (Nees and Mart.) H.S. Irwin and Barneby	fedegoso	shrub	ASE 17930
Senna spectabilis (DC.) H.S. Irwin and Barneby	canafístula	tree	ASE 16052
Senna uniflora (Mill.) H.S. Irwin and Barneby	mata pasto cabeludo	shrub	ASE 17837
Vachellia farnesiana (L.) Wight and Arn.	-	liana	ASE 16520
Hypoxidaceae			
Hypoxis decumbens L.	-	herb	ASE 17921
Lamiaceae			
Hyptis fruticosa Salzm. *ex* Benth.	alecrim-do-mato	shrub	ASE 17845
Hyptis pectinata (L.) Poit.	-	herb	ASE 17964
Hyptis suaveolens (L.) Poit.	-	herb	ASE 17975
Leonotis nepetifolia (L.) R.Br.	cordão-de-são-francisco	herb	ASE 16044
Ocimum basilicum L.	alfavaca	herb	ASE 17824
Ocimum campechianum Mill.	manjericão	herb	ASE 17823
Lythraceae			
Lafoensia pacari A. St.-Hil.	-	tree	ASE 17929
Malpighiaceae			
Stigmaphyllon blanchetii C.E. Anderson	-	tree	ASE 17817
Malvaceae			
Apeiba tibourbou Aubl.		herb	ASE 17846
Ceiba glaziovii (Kuntze) K. Schum.	barriguda	tree	ASE 17998
Corchorus hirtus L.	-	herb	ASE 17864
Helicteres lhotzkyana (Schott and Endl.) K. Schum.	-	shrub	ASE 18799
Malvastrum coromandelianum (L.) Garcke	-	herb	ASE 16068
Melochia tomentosa L.	-	herb	ASE 17841
Sida spinosa L.	vassourinha	shrub	ASE 17913
Marantaceae			
Calathea crocata E. Morren and Joriss.	-	herb	ASE 17834
Marantha sp.	-	herb	ASE 17981
Meliaceae			
Cedrela fissilis Vell.	cedro	tree	ASE 17949
Myrtaceae			
Psidium schenckianum Kiaersk.	araçá	tree	ASE 16050
Eugenia punicifolia (Kunth) DC.	pitomba de cágado	tree	ASE 17993
Nyctaginaceae			
Pisonia tomentosa Casar.	bandola	tree	ASE 16042
Orchidaceae			
Brassavola tuberculata Hook.	-	herb	ASE 17819
Catasetum uncatum Nees and Sinning	-	herb	ASE 17950
Cyrtopodium holstii L.C. Menezes	-	herb	ASE 17957
Oeceoclades maculata (Lindl.) Lindl. (exotic species)	-	herb	ASE 16524
Vanilla palmarum (Salzm. *ex* Lindl.) Lindl.	-	herb	ASE 17859
Passifloraceae			
Passiflora cincinnata Mast.	maracujá do mato	liana	ASE 16515
Poaceae			
Cenchrus echinata L.	carrapicho	herb	ASE 17829
Chloris gayana Kunth.	-	herb	ASE 16529
Eragrostis cilianensis (All.) Vign. *ex* Janchen	-	herb	ASE 17833
Eriochloa punctata (L.) Desv. *ex* Ham.	-	herb	ASE 17855
Setaria parviflora (Poir.) Kerguélen	-	herb	ASE 17832
Paspalum fimbriatum Kunth	-	herb	ASE 16528
Paspalum oligostachyum Salzm. *ex* Steud.	-	herb	ASE 17828
Urochloa fusca (Sw.) B.F. Hansen & Wunderlin	-	herb	ASE 17856
Polygalaceae			
Polygala decumbens A.W. Benn.	-	herb	ASE 17865

Table 1. ***Continued.***

FAMILY/SPECIES	POPULAR NAME	HABIT	VOUCHER
Portulacaceae			
Talinum portulacifolium (Forssk.) Asch. *ex* Schweinf.	-	herb	ASE 17839
Rhamnaceae			
Rhamnidium elaeocarpum Reissek	melassonhim	tree	ASE 17953
Ziziphus joazeiro Mart.	juazeiro	tree	ASE 16513
Rubiaceae			
Alseis floribunda Schott	goiabeira do mato	tree	ASE 17996
Borreria verticillata (L.) G. Mey.	vassourinha-de-botão	herb	ASE 17852
Coutarea alba Griseb**.**	quina-quina branca	tree	ASE 17970
Guettarda angelica Mart. *ex* Müll. Arg.	quina-quina	tree	ASE 17807
Tocoyena bullata (Vell.) Mart.		tree	ASE 20414
Rutaceae			
Citrus aurantium L.	laranja brava	tree	ASE 17965
Salicaceae			
Casearia sylvestris Sw.	estralador	tree	ASE 17977
Sapindaceae			
Cardiospermum halicacabum L.	-	herb	ASE 17972
Serjania communis Cambess.	-	liana	ASE 17942
Urvillea ulmacea Kunth	-	liana	ASE 17857
Sapotaceae			
Sideroxylon obtusifolium (Humb. *ex* Roem. and Schult.) T.D. Penn.	quixabeira	tree	ASE 17969
Solanaceae			
Aureliana fasciculata (Vell) Sendth	-	tree	ASE 17966
Datura stramonium L.	zabumba	herb	ASE 17867
Solanum americanum Mill.	-	shrub	ASE 17944
Solanum stipulaceum Willd. *ex* Roem. and Schult.	-	shrub	ASE 17938
Solanum caavurana Vell.	-	shrub	ASE 17818
Solanum gardneri Sendtn.	-	shrub	ASE 17939
Solanum paniculatum L.	jurubeba	shrub	ASE 17634
Solanum sp.	sacatinga	shrub	ASE 16061
Solanaceae sp.1.	-	shrub	ASE 17928
Solanaceae sp.2	-	shrub	ASE 17945
Solanaceae sp.3	-	shrub	ASE 17818
Verbenaceae			
Lantana camara L.	chumbinho	shrub	ASE 16067
Lantana canescens Kunth	-	shrub	ASE 17919
Lantana sp.	malva	shrub	ASE 17914
Lippia alba (Mill.) N.E. Br. *ex* Britton and P. Wilson	-	herb	ASE 17842
Priva bahiensis A. DC.	pega pinto	herb	ASE 17843
Tamonea sp.	-	herb	ASE 17912
Vitaceae			
Cissus blanchetiana Planch.	-	herb	ASE 17980
Cissus albida Cambess.	-	liana	ASE 17992
Undetermined			
Undetermined species 1	-	herb	ASE 17862
Undetermined species 2	-	herb	ASE 17926

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