FLORISTIC DIVERSITY IN AN AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM IN ITATI, RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL

Náthali Severo Schuster¹ & Mara Rejane Ritter¹

¹Instituto de Biociências - UFRGS, Departamento de Botânica, Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil. natyss1@gmail.com

Biodiverse agroforestry systems with agroecological principles are growing as an alternative to modern agriculture. These systems are economically beneficial, as shown by a reduced risk of lost by natural catastrophes, higher resilience and resistance to plagues, all due to the strict relation between spontaneous and cultivated species. These characteristics make of agroforestry systems a tool for conservation. Our aim was to discover which species are cultivated and naturally occur at an agroforestry system in the Litoral Norte region, in the Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, and to what end they are being used. The study area is located in the Mata Atlântica biome, where three guided tours were conducted in an area of approximately 2,5 ha. 159 species were found, distributed in 60 families of angiosperms. The most abundant families were Asteraceae, with 20 species and Myrtaceae, Rosaceae and Fabaceae with 9. Of the total species, 49% are used as food, and most of them are exotic fruit trees traditionally cultivated and consumed in south Brazil. Within the species of other categories, 22 were classified, according to literature, as edible, which represents 21,15% of the total number of species. A high diversity of native species was also found, being mostly herbaceous and arboreal plants. These species, when in agroforestry systems, can assist in the maintenance of nearby forest fragments, contributing with the conservation of their ecosystem. This indicates that there is much more to be learnt about these systems and the people who manage them.

Keywords: ethnobotany, Atlantic Forest, edible plants.