OVARY AND OVULE MORPHOANATOMY OF *Dyckia maritima* COMPLEX (BROMELIACEAE, PITCAIRNIOIDEAE): PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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Pitcairnioideae is the third biggest subfamily of Bromeliaceae, who, to date, is divided into eight subfamilies. Within this subfamily, *Dyckia* Schult. f. is the second larger genus, although not much is clear about its species taxonomy. The phylogeny of the genus based on molecular data, present a polytomy, which can be caused by rapid diversification of the genus. A group of similar morphologically seeds form the *Dyckia maritima* complex. The floral morphological characteristics are more stable and less influenced by the environment when compared to vegetative organs, and, therefore, they are more reliable in the delimitation of taxa. Recently, a survey has been done about these species and little is known about this complex and their reproductive characters. This study aims to characterize the ovary and the ovule of species within this complex in order to identify possible similarities and differences among them, corroborating or not its association in a particular group within the genus. In addition, the project attempts to add embryological data onto genus and to contribute to the knowledge of reproductive organs of Bromeliaceae and Pitcairnioideae subfamily, assisting to the taxon delimitation. All species studied have the characteristic anatropous, bitemgic, and crassinucellate ovule of Bromeliaceae, *Polygonum* type gametophyte, the presence of a hypostase and a short chalazal appendage of subdermal origins. Furthermore, in these species the ovaries have axial placentation, idioblasts with raphides and stomata in epidermis; and each ovary locule is supplied by a dorsal and two ventral vascular bundles. However, we find differences among the species of the complex in their flowers. *Dyckia delicata* Larocca & Sobral showed more variants when compared to the other species of the complex. They differed by presenting lower amount of trichomes in the sepals and petals surface; higher number of series and columns of ovules placentation in the loci; and locules homogeneity filled with polysaccharide substance, where the ovules are embedded. The other species analyzed seem to be similar between them. These results show that there are differences among the species belonging to *Dyckia maritima* complex, at least in relation to one of the species. Therefore, a detailed study should establish which species really belong to this group. (CAPES, FAPERGS/CNPq)

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