



UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO
Departamento de Botânica – Instituto de Biociências
Caixa Postal 11461 – 05422-970 - São Paulo, SP - Brasil



Dr. Nigel Stork
Chair of the Honorary Fellow Nominating Committee
Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation

São Paulo, 16th November 2011.

Dear Dr. Nigel Stork,

It is a great pleasure to nominate Dr. Paulo S. Oliveira for the Honorary Fellow Award of the Association of Tropical Biology & Conservation. Dr. Oliveira is a prominent Brazilian Tropical Biologist, who is internationally renowned for his outstanding research on insect-plant interactions and on the behavioral ecology of ants. Dr. Oliveira has made excellent contributions for the advancement of tropical biology in Brazil and abroad through his extensive publications, numerous invited talks, and intensive training of students. Dr. Oliveira was ATBC President in 1999, and has been deeply involved with ATBC activities since 1995, especially through *Biotropica*, for which he was a Subject Editor for several years.

Dr. Oliveira started his scientific career working on the systematics and mimicry of insects and spiders in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest and the Cerrado. He then followed with studies on insect-plant interactions, especially in ant-plant-herbivore systems. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1988 from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP, Brazil), for which he worked on the ecological function of extrafloral nectaries of *Caryocar brasiliense* in the Brazilian cerrado. He then went to Harvard University as a post-doctoral fellow (1988-1990), during which time he worked on the social behavior of tropical ants at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Dr. Oliveira subsequently spent time in Germany (Universität Würzburg) and France (Université Paul Sabatier-Toulouse) to continue his studies on this topic.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Oliveira has conducted research on insect-plant interactions and on the behavioral ecology of ants in various Brazilian ecosystems (Pantanal, Cerrado, Amazonia, Atlantic Forests, Mangroves, and dunes, among others). He has published approximately 15 book chapters and 80 scientific papers on mimicry systems, insect-plant interactions, and on the ecology, natural history & social behavior of ants. His research has been widely cited (over 1700 citations) and has been recently recognized through the prestigious Brazilian Award “Prêmio Acadêmico Zeferino Vaz.” Dr. Oliveira summarized



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some of his key research findings in two recently published books: (1) Oliveira, P.S. & R.J. Marquis. 2002. *The Cerrados of Brazil: Ecology and Natural History of a Neotropical Savanna*. Columbia University Press, USA; and, (2) Rico-Gray, V. & P.S. Oliveira. 2007. *The Ecology and Evolution of Ant-Plant Interactions* (2007). The University of Chicago Press, USA.

For the past ten years, Dr. Oliveira has been a full professor at the Department of Animal Biology at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, where he has served as a faculty member since 1983. During this time, he has taught a series of courses in ecology and animal behavior, as well as advised over forty graduate and under-graduate students. Most of Dr. Oliveira's former Ph.D. students are now professors at Federal and State Universities throughout Brazil (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, and Paraná), where they have become leaders in their fields. Additionally, Dr. Oliveira's international experience and exposure has also helped his former master's students, several of whom subsequently pursued their Ph.D.'s in renowned US Institutions such as Harvard University, Boston University, University of Missouri-St.Louis, State University of New York (Stony Brook), University of Arizona, and University of Ottawa.

Given Dr. Oliveira's excellent scientific record and extensive contributions to Tropical Biology and Conservation, I strongly believe that Dr. Oliveira represents an outstanding candidate for an ATBC Honorary Award. Dr. Oliveira has played (and continues to play) a critical role for the development of Tropical Ecology and Conservation, having contributed immensely towards the advancement of this field of research in Brazil and abroad.

Thank you very much for considering Dr. Oliveira's nomination for an ATBC Honorary Award, and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Lohmann'.

Lúcia G. Lohmann, Ph.D.
Chair of ATBC2012
Assistant Professor
University of São Paulo