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Submission Type:

Poster Session

Are you currently an ATBC Member?:

No

Topic:

1. CHARACTERIZATION of TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY (species, genetics, and landscape)

Subtopic (1st Choice):

1.1. Inventory, genetics, and evolution

Subtopic (2nd Choice):

1.2. Species interactions

Is this abstract submitted as part of a Symposium?:

No

Title:

Conservation and Taxonomy based on leaves and barks of most exploited species of woody *Diospyros* spp. (EBENACEAE) in Madagascar. Preliminary results

Abstract:

This Research is part of the workpackages of the called” *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* Sustainable Wood Project (G3D)”, a scientific support to the implementation of the CITES Action Plan in Madagascar. Since 2013, both *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* have been listed in CITES Appendix II. For Madagascar, an international trade embargo has been established and will be maintained until sufficient progress is made. In order to lift this embargo, it is essential to know scientific data, bases necessary for decision-making such as the exact scientific names of extracted and exported wood species, especially those with a minimum exploitable diameter (DME). Until now existing identification of species is based on floral morphology which is not applicable for illegally traded woods. Thus, the development of a reliable identification tool for the species, through extensive taxonomic analyzes of leaves, and bark, supplemented by ecological data should really help to improve the systematic control of exportation, while ensuring conservation and sustainable

management of precious woods. Up to now, a total of 350 *Diospyros spp.* samples are undergoing analyzes to be identified through their leaf architecture and morphometry and external bark description. Leaf architecture and outer bark structure variability which are different or similar from a species to another will gather affiliated species in the same taxonomic group or distinguished them from other. An easy to use identification key based on leaf architecture and outer bark morphology will be developed to be a reference tool for Malagasy ebony species distinction in Madagascar.

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