



Pôster – Outra área temática

Morphological and molecular identification of octocorals (Cnidaria; Anthozoa) potentially invasive of Brazilian southeastern

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Biological invasions are characterized when organisms are introduced to a region outside their native range, being able to establish and reproduce mainly because of their fast reproductive rate and lack of natural predators. Non-indigenous species are today the second greater cause of biodiversity loss, which can also affect the ecosystem, society and economy. In this sense, the present work aimed to identify octocoral (Cnidaria; Anthozoa) invaders, collected in Angra dos Reis - RJ, whose probable vector was aquarium trade. The identification of the organisms was based on morphological aspects, with emphasis on sclerites analyzes by scanning electron microscopy. In addition, genetic analyzes were performed using partial sequencing of the molecular markers CO1, msh1 and 28S. Evolutionary reconstruction corroborated morphological data, in a reciprocal illuminating process. The results corroborate previous studies on the occurrence of *Clavularia sp.* and *Sansibia sp.* in Angra dos Reis, as well as to report the occurrence of another invasive species in Brazil, *Erythropodium caribaeorum*.

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