



Phylogeny of the tribe Cecropieae Gaudich. (Urticaceae)

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The tribe Cecropieae includes five genera and about 180 species. *Cecropia*, *Coussapoa* and *Pourouma* represent a diverse and abundant group of species, preferentially distributed in the tropical rainforests of Neotropical region. *Musanga* and *Myrianthus* have Afrotropical distribution, with the greatest diversity of species concentrated in the moist areas of the tropical forests on the west coast of Africa. Molecular studies in Cecropieae are scarce and there is so far, a phylogeny that includes all genera. Furthermore, the systematic of Cecropieae as well as its position in Urticaceae are controversial. For presenting morphological characters intermediates between Moraceae and Urticaceae, this group was classified into four families (Artocarpeae, Cecropiaceae, Moraceae and Urticaceae), two subfamilies (Conocephaloideae and Cecropioideae) and five tribes (Artocarpeae property, Conocephaleae, Cecropieae, Pouroumeae and Urticeae). A phylogeny based on the *ndhF* chloroplast gene and 26S ribosomal DNA supports. The analyzes were performed using the method of maximum likelihood and maximum parsimony with heuristic search and clade support by bootstrap analysis using PAUP 4.0. Modeltest was used to identify the best fitting model of sequence evolution. Bayesian inference was performed using MrBayes 3.1. African *Musanga* embedded within *Cecropia*. Neotropical *Pourouma* and *Coussapoa* are highly supported sister groups. *Myrianthus* appears to be sister to the rest of the tribe, but with low support. Our results strongly supported Urticaceae, including Cecropieae, as a monophyletic group. The project, with the participation and integration of two research teams: one of them coordinated by Dr. Sergio Romaniuc Neto and the other coordinated by Dr. George D. Weiblen.

Keyword: Systematic, *Cecropia*, *Coussapoa*, *Pourouma*, *Musanga*, *Myrianthus*.

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