

# Major Constituents of the Foliar Epicuticular Waxes of Species from the Caatinga and Cerrado

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The epicuticular waxes of leaves of four species (*Aspidosperma pyrifolium*, *Capparis yco*, *Maytenus rigida* and *Ziziphus joazeiro*) from the Caatinga, (a semi-arid ecosystem of Northeast Brazil) and four species (*Aristolochia esperanzae*, *Didymopanax vinosum*, *Strychnos pseudoquina* and *Tocoyena formosa*) from the Cerrado, (a savanna ecosystem covering one third of the Brazilian territory), were analyzed. Six species contained a high content (above  $60 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ ) of wax, four of them from the Caatinga. Triterpenoids and *n*-alkanes were the most frequent and abundant constituents found in the species from both habitats. The distribution of *n*-alkanes predominated by homologues with 27, 29, 31 and 33 carbon atoms, displayed no consistent differences between species from the two habitats. Lupeol,  $\beta$ -amyirin, epifriedelinol and ursolic acid were the triterpenoids found. Triterpenoids clearly predominate over alkanes in the waxes from the Cerrado species. The waxes of two evergreen species from the Caatinga yielded *n*-alkanes as predominant constituents. A comparison of foliar epicuticular waxes of native plants from ecosystems with different hydric constraints is discussed.