Dear Dr. Shunyao Zhuang (Editor-in-Chief),

We are sending you the manuscript entitled “**Floristic composition and community structure of epiphytic angiosperms in an urban forest fragment in the Eastern Amazon**” to be considered for publication in Research in Ecology.

Josélia Rozanny Vieira Pacheco1 & Felipe Fajardo Villela Antolin Barberena1,2,\*

\*felipe.fajardo@ufra.edu.br

1Herbário HCP, Universidade Federal Rural da Amazônia – *campus* Capitão Poço, Rua Professora Antônia Cunha de Oliveira s.n., Vila Nova, CEP 68650-000, Capitão Poço, Pará, Brazil

2Programa de Pós-graduação em Botânica Tropical, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Avenida Perimetral 1901, Terra Firme, CEP 66077-830, Belém, Pará, Brazil.

*Vascular epiphytes are one of the most important forest components, contributing to microclimatic maintenance and often constituting a source of moisture and nutrients, breeding sites and shelters for species of the fauna. The Brazilian Amazon is recognized for its high richness of plant species, and stands out for its spatial heterogeneity and high temperature and humidity, ideal conditions for the development of vascular epiphytes. However, in recent years, the Brazilian Amazon has undergone dramatic changes in its landscape, mainly due to the expansion of cattle farming and soybean production areas and the increase in deforestation and fire rates, especially in the eastern portion where the forest fragmentation process is alarming. Thus, in this work we present the floristic composition and analyze the community structure of epiphytic angiosperms of an urban forest fragment in the Eastern Amazon. We highlighted that information about the floristic composition and vertical distribution of vascular epiphytes is fundamental for establishing strategies for the conservation of this group. We also emphasized that the conservation of urban forest fragments is necessary for the maintenance of the epiphytic flora and ecosystem services, including leisure and ecotourism.*

We assure that the manuscript has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We declare that we have no conflict of interest related to the publication of this manuscript. Both authors have seen and approved the submitted manuscript. There was no need for research approval by any Ethics Committee.

Josélia Rozanny Vieira Pacheco: Substantial contribution in the concept and design of the study, data collection, and manuscript preparation.

Felipe Fajardo Villela Antolin Barberena: Substantial contribution in the concept and design of the study, data analysis, manuscript preparation, and critical revision, adding intelectual content.

Please contact us in case of any questions.

Sincerely Yours,

Felipe Fajardo Villela Antolin Barberena

Universidade Federal Rural da Amazônia – *campus* Capitão Poço, Rua Professora Antônia Cunha de Oliveira s.n., Vila Nova, 68650-000, Capitão Poço, Pará, Brazil

Phone: +55 (21) 98302-4299

E-mail for correspondence: felipe.fajardo@ufra.edu.br