



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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***The Atlantic Coastal Forest of Northeastern Brazil***

**Edited by Wm. Wayt Thomas**

**100th Volume of the *Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden*  
Supports the Conservation of  
One the Most Biologically Diverse and Endangered Regions of the World**

This nearly 600-page volume, just released and entitled *The Atlantic Coastal Forest of Northeastern Brazil*, unites information on the vegetation and flora of the Atlantic forests of northeastern Brazil in 18 chapters written by 33 scientists. All the papers have been edited by Wm. Wayt Thomas, a research scientist in The New York Botanical Garden's Institute of Systematic Botany.

The Atlantic coastal forests of Brazil are one of the world's biodiversity "hotspots," highly threatened areas rich in species found nowhere else. This long, narrow strip of forest spans over 23° of latitude and over 4,000 km along the coast of Brazil—the equivalent distance from Nova Scotia to Cuba. As a result, it comprises many different kinds of forest, each with its own flora and conservation problems. According to Dr. Thomas, "Within the Atlantic forest biome, the forests of northeastern Brazil are the most diverse, most threatened, and least understood. By means of this book, I sought to bring together the top-notch research of the talented Brazilian scientists studying these forests. We hope that a clearer understanding of the region's forests and ecology will lead to wise conservation decisions." In addition to editing these papers, Dr. Thomas himself has studied plant diversity in the Atlantic coastal forests of Brazil for more than 15 years.

The book also marks a milestone as the 100th publication in the *Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden*. This series, whose first volume was published in 1900, is dedicated to the publication of longer botanical works. This volume is the first work in English on the vegetation of the endangered Atlantic forests of northeastern Brazil, and one of only a handful in any language on the subject.

While most of the papers address the forests of a specific area, the authors place their conclusions in the context of the entire region. The first paper surveys and describes the types of forest vegetation found in northeastern Brazil. Eleven papers describe specific forest sites, from the *tabuleiro* forests on Tertiary sediments to the diverse forests of southern Bahia and the gallery forests of high-elevation meadows. Two are survey papers, one of the moist mountain-top forests of Pernambuco and Paraíba and the other of the forests of the Linhares Reserve in Espírito Santo. Four papers describe the human impact on the coastal forest and its plants: one through satellite imagery of land use, one through studies of regeneration in secondary forests, one describing an urban forest, and one compiling the common names of forest plants in southern Bahia.

This book provides fundamental information to botanists, ecologists, conservation biologists, and policy makers. It also lays a strong scientific foundation for conservation in one of the most diverse and threatened regions on the planet.

## About the Editor

Ever since his childhood in Southeast Asia, William Wayt Thomas has been interested in the natural history of tropical forests. After attending the University of North Carolina, he received his Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Michigan in 1982. Dr. Thomas is the Elizabeth G. Britton Curator of Botany at The New York Botanical Garden and is also the Executive Director of the Organization for Flora Neotropica. He studies the plant diversity and conservation of the Atlantic coastal forests of northeastern Brazil, especially the forests of the state of Bahia. He is fascinated with species distributions, endemism, and the dynamics of rarity. Thomas also studies the evolution and systematics of the sedge family (Cyperaceae) in tropical America, especially the beak-rushes (*Rhynchospora*).

## About The New York Botanical Garden Press

The New York Botanical Garden Press ([www.nybgpress.org](http://www.nybgpress.org)) has one of the largest publishing programs of any independent botanical garden in the world and provides a means for communication of research carried out by scientists at The New York Botanical Garden and elsewhere. Begun in 1896, the program focuses on advances in knowledge about the classification, utilization, and conservation of plant life.

Published at irregular intervals since 1900, *Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden* is a medium for the publication of lengthy original research papers focusing on taxonomy and floristics with an emphasis on plants of the Western Hemisphere. Two geographic strengths have been floras of the American tropics and of the northeastern region of North America. *The Atlantic Coastal Forest of Northeastern Brazil* is the 100th volume in the series. Other recent publications include the two-part *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central French Guinea*; *The Pteridophytes of Mexico*; *Britton's Botanical Empire: The New York Botanical Garden and American Botany, 1888–1929*; *Orchid Biology: Reviews and Perspectives, IX*; *The Macrolichens of New England*; and *Proceedings of Cycad 2005: The 7th International Conference on Cycad Biology*. The volumes are priced individually.

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