

## **FAPESP presents Brazilian Nature – Mystery and Destiny exhibit at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Bavaria, Germany**

*Still life on Brazilian nature and biodiversity can be seen by German audiences from December to February at the Catholic University in Eichstätt*

For the fifth time in Germany since 2008, the *Brazilian Nature – Mystery and Destiny* exhibit will open to the public on December 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the library of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, in Eichstätt, Bavaria. The result of a partnership between the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) and the Berlin Botanical museum, the exhibit displays the body of documentation conducted by Carl Friedrich Philipp von Martius (1794-1868), assembled in the book *Flora brasiliensis*, which 171 years after its first publication remains the most complete survey of Brazilian flora.

The work of the German naturalist also gave rise to the project *Flora Brasiliensis On-line e Revisitada*, (*Flora Brasiliensis On-line and Revised*) which includes updated nomenclature for the items listed in Martius' original works and the inclusion of species described after its publication with new information and recent illustrations. The exhibit also present a comparison of images produced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with current photographs of plants and biomes, in addition to portraying some of the results of studies conducted under the auspices of the project *Flora fanerogâmica do Estado de São Paulo (Phanerogamic flora of São Paulo State)* and the BIOTA-FAPESP program, which brings together studies on the characterization, conservation, recovery and use of biodiversity in the state of São Paulo.

Conceived based on data from three of these projects, all funded by FAPESP, the exhibit is comprised of 37 panels, with reproductions of images and illustrations accompanied by explanatory texts. Since 2008, the show has been seen in Berlin, Bremen and Leipzig. It has also been at the Heidelberg University Museum since February of this year. In North America, the exhibit has traveled to Toronto (Canada), Washington, Cambridge and Morgantown (United States). It is also slated to be exhibited in the Spanish cities of Salamanca and Madrid.

### **An exhibit based on research**

The *Flora Brasiliensis On-line e Revisitada*, which corresponds to the first part of the exhibit, represents a continuation of Martius' work, the last volume of which was published posthumously in 1906.

In 2006, the project made the complete body of Martius' work available on the internet, totaling 10,207 pages with texts of the descriptions of almost 23,000 species and almost 4,000 illustrations. *Flora Brasiliensis On-line e Revisitada*, which includes updated nomenclature for the items listed in Martius' original works and the inclusion of species described after its publication with new information and recent illustrations.

FAPESP, Fundação Vitae and Natura Cosméticos partnered to fund the project, which was undertaken by the Environmental Information Reference Center at State University of Campinas (Unicamp) and the Botanical Gardens of Missouri in the United States. *Flora Brasiliensis On-line* is available at <http://florabrasiliensis.cria.org.br>

The second part of the exhibit focused on the *Flora fanerogâmica do Estado de São Paulo (Phanerogamic flora of São Paulo State)* project, begun in 1993 and lists the 1,500 genus and 8,000 species of pharenogames, or flowering plant, which represent 80% of São Paulo flora. The project brought together more than 200 researchers from University of São Paulo (USP), São Paulo State University (UNESP), Unicamp, the Botanical, Forest and Agronomy institutes and the Department of Parks and Green Areas in São Paulo City. The Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Research Corporation (Embrapa) also contributed to the study along with researchers from other Brazilian states and foreign countries.

The third element of exposure surpasses the limits botany and covers biodiversity in the most general form, corresponding to the BIOTA-FAPESP program, which resulted in the identification and description of 500 new species of plants and animals and registration of information of more 12,000 species and database with the content of 35 biological collections. The results of the BIOTA-FAPESP program have been applied as an instrument of environmental preservation in São Paulo state.

The exhibition, which is also funded by the Latin American Studies Institute of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, will be inaugurated by the university president, Dr. Richard Schenk, and will be open to the public through February 9, 2013. The digital panels of exhibit can be seen with Portuguese, English and German captions at: <http://www.fapesp.br/publicacoes/braziannature/>

### **Exhibition *Brazilian Nature – Mystery and Destiny***

Opening: 12/4/2012

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: The Library of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

More information is available at: <http://www.fapesp.br/publicacoes/braziannature/>

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