

*Efectos de la desertificación en la vegetación de Caatinga en
Paraíba – Brasil*

Effects of desertification in Caatinga vegetation in Paraíba - Brazil

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This study consisted of an analysis of the composition, structure and Alfa diversity of Caatinga vegetation in the city of Cabaceiras, Paraíba -Brazil, with the aim to identify how these parameters are affected by desertification. The biogeographical proposal of Cámara & Díaz del Olmo (2004) was the methodology used. Tree and shrub species were identified and measured in 0,247105381 acres (0.1 ha.) and then calculated the parameters in Excel spreadsheet and Past software. 247 individuals were attended in total, especially *C. sonderianus*, *P. pyramidalis* and *B. laciniosa* (63.95% of the identified individuals), and the dominance of high tree layer and low shrub layer. The area has a high diversity (17 species), dominance of a few species and low abundance. Although the diversity remains high, according to the results, the desertification strongly affected the quantity, structure and density of the Caatinga species.

Key words: Desertification; Deforestation; Caatinga; Old Cariris; Biogeographical method.