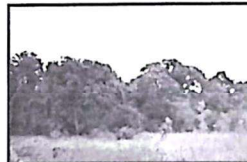


atomy of Pantanal Mato-Grossense woods (Microscopic features)

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INTRODUCTION

Brazilian Pantanal occupies approximately 138.000 km² of low land temporarily exposed to flooding. In spite of its occupation and extensive cattle farming use, the region conservation can still be considered as satisfactory. The cropped pastures after deforestation have been introduced especially in areas not exposed to floodings, what means slightly elevated areas with wood vegetation as Savanna, Forested Savanna and Semideciduous Seasonal Forest, that are the main Pantanal wood phytosociology. Regardless of the importance and use of those vegetation, not much is known about their ecology, plant communities relationships or natural regeneration processes of the main phytosociologies of Pantanal. These ecological data are essential information for the conservation and sustainable development of the region. In this context, anatomical studies come to contribute substantially to decrease the lack in the scientific knowledge, supplying additional data that contribute to conservation studies of those species.



MATERIAL AND METHODS

40 species were selected, among 25 families. The trees were sampled in a farm that belongs to *Embrapa-Pantanal*, located in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. This sub-area of Pantanal presents a quite typical physiognomy, with low land, not exposed to flooding at all and covered by vegetation classified as savanna, forested savanna, semi-deciduous forest or gallery forest. Trees trunk disk samples were collected from selected individuals which presented suitable canopy arrangement. Transverse sections were taken from each tree log at 0.30 m. Permanent slides were prepared for each species. IAWA terminology was adopted for anatomical descriptions.

RESULTS

The results are presented in three languages, including general ecological information, growth ring limits and wood anatomy descriptions. All species showed rhythmic growth, distinguished by wood anatomical features, probably due to the seasonal climatic characteristics of the region. It was built an important basis to understand the growth behavior of the selected species regarding the establishment of future forest management plans.

