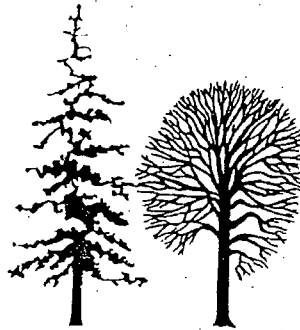


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GOZDARSKI INŠTITUT SLOVENIJE
SLOVENIAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE

Activity report for the bilateral project Brazil - Slovenia
»Ectomycorrhizal fungi and oligochaeta diversity in Brazilian and
Slovenian soils« No. 490648/2010-0 (CNP) (Brazil) / BI-BR/11-13-005
(Slovenia)

Interim report upon the occasion of visit of the Brazilian partner at the
Slovenian Forestry Institute,
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 13. 04. 2013 – 20. 04. 2013

George G. Brown, Tine Grebenc

Ljubljana, 20. 04. 2013



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In the period from 13th April and 20th April 2013 George G. Brown, a researcher at Embrapa Florestas, a project team member visited the Slovenian Forestry Institute, Ljubljana, for a scheduled short-term visit within the bilateral project. The researcher was involved in all planned and executed activities prepared by the host and the executed research work within the scope of the project.

The following tasks and activities were proposed:

1. Introduction to laboratory and work,
2. Review of the publications and past work done on earthworms in Slovenia,
3. Organisation of a short workshop on earthworms including:
 - a. Organisation and sampling scheme preparation for a field trip
 - b. Field trip to "Trnovski gozd" research plot for sampling
 - c. Laboratory training of students and analysis of the collected material
 - d. A public talk of the guest at the host institution,
4. Planning of future tasks (proposals and ideas requiring discussion).

The proposed tasks were executed in a time-rational manner and the guest's day-by-day report was prepared as follows:

13. - 14.04.

Travel to destination

15.04.

Arrival, organisation of housing. Introduction to the Slovenian Forestry Institute (organisation), laboratory and other research facilities, introduction to methodologies regarding the working plan (standard operation procedures), safety measures and regulations

16.04.

Welcome by colleagues, Introduction to working timetable, key topics and their adaptation according to the available research material. Literature review of past studies of earthworms. Revision of the workshops - steps and tasks. Organisation of required equipment for the field trip and a detailed experimental set-up. The sampling locations were based on the research plots already included in the SFI research activities so we will be able to be able to make usage of as many available data (soil, vegetation, diversity, processes, site history etc.) as possible.

17.04.

Field trip and the first day of the workshop. The field trip took place at the Trnovski gozd site, a beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) dominated forest site with past implementation of three different cutting regimes in otherwise mature forest stand. Three microsites were sampled applying three

different sampling procedures Students actively participated the sampling and material handling. The field trip lasted a whole day.

18.04.

Laboratory training of students and analysis of the collected material was organised in the afternoon time while in the morning, the sampling methodology was repeated at the garden/forest located nearby the Slovenian Forestry Institute, used for a comparison to the samples forest site. G. Brown also gave a public talk presenting the EMBRAPA institution, the biodiversity in Brazil and a scientific talk on the soil systems entitled: Unearthing soil biodiversity: Management and conservation implications. Students and other scientific audience had participated the presentation (the Attendance list is in attachment)

19.04.

The second day of laboratory training (workshop) and analysis of the collected material aiming to quantify and identify the collected material from research plot and from SFI garden. We also prepared the future sampling planed for one student, who will dedicate a part of her research time to continue working on earthworms. We also selected samples for further (DNA barcoding) analysis to be taken to Brazil and for future information and material exchange among the participating institution. The day was finished with a discussion and closure of the workshop.

20.04.

Preparation of documents needed for material exchange and preparation of the final report of the visit. Departure.

The visit ended on 20th April 2013. The report was prepared by the participant (Dr. George Brown) and confirmed by both project leaders (Prof. Antonioli, Dr. Grebenc). The visit was self-evaluated as successful in terms of organisation of the workshop, the executed research tasks, analysed material and in terms of the discussion for the future common research and publishing activities.

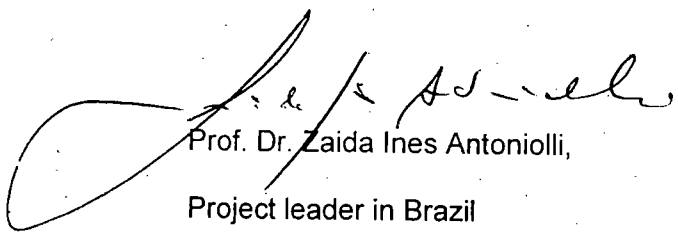

Dr. George G. Brown

Guest researcher


Dr. Tine Grebenc,

Project leader in Slovenia

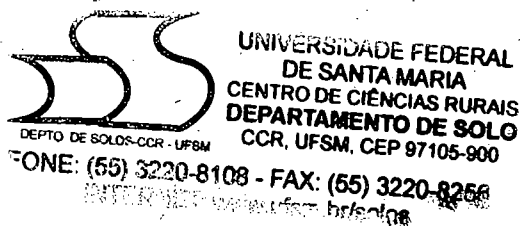
Slovenian Forestry Institute


Prof. Dr. Zaida Ines Antonioli,

Project leader in Brazil

Department of Soil, UFSM

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 20th April 2013



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