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# SEED BANK IN TWO SITES OF SEMIDECIDUOUS SEASONAL FOREST IN VIÇOSA, MINAS GERAIS<sup>1</sup>

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**ABSTRACT** – Aimed of this study was examine, describe and confronted the floristic composition and the density the seed bank in two successional stages of Seasonal Semideciduous Forest, in Viçosa, MG. Forty soil samples total in two distinct period (drought station finish and rainy station finis) and arranged for germinate in wooden boxes (0,5 x 0,5 x 0,1 m) in shading of 60%. The individual germination in each valuation epoch was compared utilizing the t test for independent samples; the test indicated one individual plants germination major in seed bank levy intermediary between epoch drought station finis and rainy station. Hundred nine taxons were sampled in the seed bank the forest altogether, 101 species were identified as belonging to 73 genera distributed among 40 families, 56 species commonness in two successional stages of forest and 49 species commonness of two levy period. Asteraceae was the families with the largest number of species as initial forest much as advanced forest, in both period of valuation. The herbaceous individuals predomination in all forests and valuation epoch, whit not representation the fragility of the seed bank.

**Keywords:** Soil seed bank; Similarity floristic of seed bank; Semideciduous Seasonal Forest.

## ***BANCO DE SEMENTES EM DOIS ESTÁDIOS SUCESSIONAIS DE UMA FLORESTA ESTACIONAL SEMIDECÍDUA EM VIÇOSA, MG***

**RESUMO** – O estudo teve por objetivo verificar, descrever e comparar a composição florística e a densidade do banco de sementes de dois estádios sucessionais de uma Floresta Estacional Semidecidual, em Viçosa/MG. Foram coletadas, no total, 40 amostras de solo em dois períodos distintos (final da estação seca e da chuvosa), e colocadas para germinar em caixas de madeira sob 60% de sombreamento. Os indivíduos germinados em cada época de avaliação foram comparados utilizando o teste t para amostras independentes, o qual apontou uma maior germinação de indivíduos no banco de sementes coletado na época de transição entre estações seca e chuvosa. Foram identificados 109 táxons no banco de sementes da floresta como um todo, sendo reconhecidas 101 espécies distribuídas em 73 gêneros de 40 famílias. Ocorreram 56 espécies comuns aos dois trechos de floresta e 49 espécies comuns aos dois períodos de coleta. Asteraceae foi a família que apresentou maior número de espécies, tanto na floresta inicial como avançada, nas duas épocas avaliadas. Os indivíduos herbáceos predominaram nas florestas e épocas de avaliação.

**Palavras-chave:** Banco de sementes do solo; Similaridade florística do banco de sementes; Floresta Estacional Semidecidual.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The soil seed bank plays a key role in the dynamic equilibrium of the environment, acting directly on the vegetation recolonization of disturbed ecosystems (SCHMITZ, 1992). Acting as a reservoir of viable seeds which do not germinate usually in a state of primary or secondary dormancy, which is formed in the soil by deposition species from seeds of the local community of neighboring or distant areas, carried by different spreading processes that will affect the distribution of propagules (HARPER, 1977; HALL; SWAINE 1980; JOLY, 1986).

The time period in which seeds remain in the seed bank is determined by physiological factors that control the germination, dormancy and viability of seeds, also by environmental factors that influence such as moisture, temperature, luminosity and presence of predators and pathogens (GARWOOD, 1989).

The seed bank is a dynamic system, which is involved in regeneration processes and restoration of ecosystems, and their use can speed up and ensure the dynamics of successional process, recovering degraded environment (Braga et al., 2008). Inasmuch as their mechanism of action be improved when handled in a manner consistent with seral stage, always considering their density characteristics and floristic (ARAÚJO et al., 2001).

This large capacity of the bank in restoring plant communities has aroused the interest of researchers in order to better understand the dynamics of action (LONGHI et al., 2005; SOUZA et al., 2006; BRAGA et al., 2007, 2008; MARTINS et al., 2008; CALEGARI et al., 2013) or through knowledge of the floristic composition or its mechanisms of formation and germination, fundamental for conservation programs, management and environmental recovery.

Therefore, this study aims to determine, describe and compare the floristic composition and density of seed bank of two successional stages of Semideciduous Forest, located in the city of Viçosa, MG.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in a forest fragment called Forest Agronomy, which has approximately 50 ha and is located in an urban area on the campus of the Federal University of Viçosa, in Viçosa, Zona da

Mata of Minas Gerais (20 ° 46 ' S and 42 ° 52 ' W), at an altitude varying between 688-782 m. The local topography is rugged, with narrow and humid valleys, predominantly Latossolo, which occurs at the top and on the slopes of elevations; and Ultisol, the terraces (CORREA, 1983). The climate through the Koppen system is the Cwb type, mesothermal with rainy summers and cold, dry winters. The average annual temperature is 19 ° C and relative humidity ranges around 80%, with an average annual rainfall of 1,314 mm (CASTRO et al., 1983).

The Agronomy Forest vegetation is characterized as Semideciduous Forest Montana (VELOSO et al., 1991), forming a mosaic of different successional stages. The Forest has over 50 years of natural regeneration, established after the original vegetation has been replaced by the clearcutting by sequential planting of coffee, eucalyptus and pasture.

For the study were chosen two passages in different regeneration stages. The first is called initial forest (20°46.105'S and 42°52.026'W) and the second forest advanced (20°46.197'S and 42°52.061'W), and altitude range 688-737 I 708-782 m respectively. Both had the same history of disturbance, differentiating as to regeneration, which occurred at different times.

Sampling of seed bank was held on 10 permanent plots allocated in each section of the forest, according to the plot method (MUELLER-DOMBOIS; ELLENBERG, 1974), measuring 10 x 25 m, allocated systematically at intervals of 5 m, with a total sample area of 0.5 ha, which served for the floristic and phytosociological study (BRAGA et al., 2011).

The soil samples were collected randomly in each plot using jigs 0,25 x 0,25 m (0,0625 m<sup>2</sup>), placed on the ground surface, first removing litter and then under this soil to a depth of 5 cm, using a dustpan, a total of 20 samples, each consisting of four replicates. The collected material was placed in labeled plastic bags. The collection of the soil samples were taken in two periods, one in September, the time of transition between the dry and rainy seasons, the other in April, the time of transition between rainy and dry seasons.

The samples were transported to the Nursery Research of the Department of Forestry (UFV / MG), and placed in 20 wooden boxes of 50 x 50 x 10 cm format, totaling a 5 m<sup>2</sup> area in each period. The boxes were

filled with the collected soil and covered with litter then distributed over shaded stands 60%. The irrigations were performed according to the weather conditions of the day, in order to avoid the stress of drought. Every month, over a period of one year was made to count and identify the plantlets from the soil seed bank.

The species identification was made through bibliographic queries in the literature and with the help of expert researchers. The species were presented according to the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II system (APG II, 2003). The confirmation of the names of the species and its authors was obtained by consulting the site Missouri Botanical Garden (<http://www.mobot.org>) and through specialized literatures.

The species were classified as the way of life (tree, shrub, liana and herbaceous) and tree species classified in the following categories in succession successional categories, according to the criteria adopted by Gandolfi et al. (1995), and classifications adopted in the studies of Martins and Rodrigues (2002) and Martin et al. (2002). Floristic comparison between the seed bank and the studied forest stretches was performed by developing a matrix of presence and absence of species and, from this, we built a dendrogram of similarity between all initial and advanced forest plots with all species sampled using Fitopac 1 program (SHEPHERD, 1996). For the preparation of the dendrogram were used the Jaccard similarity index (PIELOU, 1975) and the method of grouping the group average (UPGMA).

### 3. RESULTS

The seed bank presented in the two sampling periods the total of 2651 seeds germinated in both stretches of forest (initial and advanced). Were 1547 species germinated in the transition period between dry and rainy seasons (1st collection), and 823 species in the initial forest and 722 in advanced forest and 1104 species germinated in the transition period between the rainy and dry season (2nd collection) of these, 539 species were the bank's initial forest and 565 species of advanced forest. Therefore, the number of germinated seeds at the end of the dry season was significantly higher ( $p = 0.0000002$ ) that germinated the seed bank collected at the end of the rainy season (Table 1).

In total they were identified 109 taxa in the forest seed bank as a whole, that were recognized 101 species in 73 genera of 40 families, 14 you identify solely on

gender level, 10 at the family level, and eight remained undetermined. There were 56 species common to the two stretches of forest and 49 species common to the two collection periods. The initial forest presented 21 exclusive species in sample of the seed bank and 15 species in sample, while in advanced forest were 23 unique species in sample and 13 in the second (Table 1).

In the initial forest were recognized 64 species belonging to 29 families at the end of the dry season, four unidentified species, and 56 species of 23 families, with a species was not identified in the seed bank of the end of the rainy season, while the advanced forest were 61 species belonging to 24 families remaining four species not identified in the corresponding sampling at the end of the dry season and 52 species of 20 families, getting four species without identifying the end of the rainy season.

The richest family wealth specifies the seed bank was Asteraceae, with 26 species, followed by Melastomataceae and Solanaceae both with eight species. The Asteraceae presented the highest number of species both in the initial forest as advanced in both periods evaluated.

The seed bank collected at the end of the dry season most individuals and species were herbaceous, followed by arboreal, both in the initial forest and in advanced. The same behavior was observed in the second collection of the bank corresponding to the end of the rainy season in both sections surveyed (Figure 1).

The largest number of individuals (160) and species (12) liana was observed in the initial forest compared to the advanced forest (27 individuals from 07 species), while the germination of these individuals in the initial forest was greater in the corresponding seed bank the end of the dry season (113 or 71%).

The 461 sampled and identified individual trees belonged to 31 species of 20 families remaining three individuals without identification. In the initial forest were 160 individuals germinated the first collection distributed in 20 species of 13 families, in the second collection were sampled 56 individuals in 16 species of eight botanical families.

However, the largest number of individuals and species occur in advanced forest, where they were identified 159 individuals in the bank collected at the end of the dry season, there were 26 species of 14

**Table 1** – Germinated species in the seed bank collect in drought station finish (1<sup>a</sup> levy) and rainy (2<sup>a</sup> levy) of in the Mata da Agronomia in Viçosa, MG, and their respective life forms (FV) and sucessional classification: PI= pioneering specie, SI= initial secondary specie, ST= late secondary specie and SC= non classified.

**Tabela 1** – Espécies germinadas no banco de sementes coletados no final da estação seca (1<sup>a</sup> coleta) e chuvosa (2<sup>a</sup> coleta) nos dois trechos da Mata da Agronomia em Viçosa, MG, e respectivas formas de vida (FV) e classificação sucessional (CS): PI= espécie pioneira, SI= espécie secundária inicial, ST= espécie secundária tardia e SC= sem caracterização.

FAMILY	SPECIES	FV	CS	Forest stretch			
				Initial forest		Advanced forest	
				1 <sup>a</sup> collect	2 <sup>a</sup> collect	1 <sup>a</sup> collect	2 <sup>a</sup> collect
ACANTHACEAE	<i>Blechnum cf. brasiliensis</i>	Her	-	0	6	0	0
ANNONACEAE	<i>Rollinia</i> sp.	Arv	SI	1	0	0	0
ASTERACEAE	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	Her	-	0	4	0	0
	<i>Aster squamatus</i> (Spreng.) Hieron	Her	-	1	0	9	6
	<i>Bacharis</i> sp.	Abt	-	4	6	1	5
	<i>Conyza bonariensis</i> (L.) Cronquist.	Her	-	1	4	1	2
	<i>Conyza canadensis</i> (L.) Cronquist.	Her	-	2	0	4	0
	<i>Crepis japonica</i> Benth.	Her	-	2	20	0	8
	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> (L.) DC.	Her	-	3	5	0	22
	<i>Erechtites hieracifolius</i> (L.)	Her	-	40	63	85	45
	<i>Eupatorium maximilianii</i> Schrad.	Her	-	4	3	0	0
	<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i> Ruiz et Pav	Her	-	1	0	1	0
	<i>Gnaphalium pensylvanicum</i> Willd.	Her	-	0	4	0	12
	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> L.	Her	-	223	105	159	105
	<i>Mikania hirsutissima</i> DC.	Lia	-	0	1	0	1
	<i>Mikania cordifolia</i> Willd	Lia	-	14	18	1	13
	<i>Mikania</i> sp.	Lia	-	70	21	1	0
	<i>Piptocarpha macropoda</i> (DC.) Baker	Arv	PI	0	0	2	0
	<i>Pterocaulon lanatum</i> Kuntze	Her	-	0	2	5	3
	<i>Pterocaulon virgatum</i> (L.) DC.	Her	-	0	30	0	2
	<i>Siegesbeckia orientalis</i> (LINN.)	Her	-	0	0	7	0
	<i>Sonchus asper</i> (L.) Hill	Her	-	7	0	6	0
	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L.	Her	-	2	2	2	2
	<i>Vernonia diffusa</i> Less	Arv	PI	0	0	4	1
	<i>Vernonia polyanthes</i> Less.	Abt	-	9	7	7	4
	Species 1	Her	-	2	4	0	1
	Species 2	Her	-	1	0	0	0
	Species 3	Abt	-	0	0	1	0
BEGONEACEAE	<i>Begonia cucullata</i> Willd.	Her	-	2	2	15	1
BIGNONEACEAE	<i>Jacaranda cf. puberula</i> Cham.	Arv	SI	1	0	0	0
	<i>Pyrostegia venusta</i> Miers	Lia	-	0	0	0	1
	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i> P. Beauv.	Arv	-	1	2	4	14
	Species 1	Arv	-	0	0	1	0
	Species 2	Lia	-	0	1	0	0
BRASSICACEAE	<i>Cardamine bonariensis</i> L.	Her	-	24	0	5	0
CANNACEAE	<i>Trema micrantha</i> (L.) Blum	Arv	PI	43	17	11	5
CELESTRACEAE	<i>Maytenus cf. aquifolia</i> MAbt.	Arv	ST	0	0	2	0
COMMELINACEAE	<i>Commelina</i> sp.	Her	-	0	1	0	0
CUCUBITACEAE	<i>Trianosperma trifoliolata</i> Cogn.	Lia	-	1	0	0	0
CYPERACEAE	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Her	-	0	2	0	3
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Acalypha communis</i> Müll.Arg.	Her	-	0	5	0	6
	<i>Croton urucurana</i> Baillon	Arv	PI	17	2	2	1
	<i>Phyllanthus tenellus</i> Roxb.	Her	-	2	3	5	1
	Species 1	Lia	-	0	1	0	0

Continue...  
Continua...

Table 1...  
Tabela 1...

FABACEAE	<i>Apuleia leiocarpa</i> (Vog.)	Arv	-	2	0	0	0
	<i>Indigofera</i> SP	Abt	-	0	0	0	2
	<i>Crotalaria pallida</i> Ait	Lia	-	1	0	0	0
	<i>Rhynchosia minima</i> (L.) DC.	Lia	-	0	0	2	0
	<i>Desmodium adscendens</i> (Sw.) DC.	Her	-	2	0	0	0
LAMIACEAE	<i>Aegiphila sellowiana</i> Cham.	Arv	PI	2	2	0	0
LECYNTHIDACEAE	<i>Cariniana estrellensis</i> (Raddi) Kuntze	Arv	ST	0	0	1	0
LYTHRACEAE	<i>Cuphea Abthagenensis</i> (Jacq.) J.F.Macbr.	Her	-	3	7	0	15
MALVACEAE	<i>Luehea grandiflora</i> MAbt. & Zucc	Arv	SI	0	0	1	0
	<i>Pseudobombax grandiflorum</i> (Cav.) A. Robyns	Arv	SI	0	0	1	0
	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i> L.	Her	-	14	1	3	2
MARANTACEAE	<i>Maranta leuconeura</i> E. Morren	Her	-	0	0	2	0
MELASTOMACEAE	<i>Leandra purpurascens</i> (DC.) Cogn.	Abt	-	14	4	85	72
	<i>Miconia cinnamomifolia</i> (DC.) Naud.)	Arv	PI	18	4	26	5
	<i>Miconia</i> sp.1	Arv	-	1	2	1	8
	<i>Miconia</i> sp.2	Arv	-	13	2	2	2
	<i>Miconia</i> sp.3	Abt	-	0	0	5	0
	<i>Miconia</i> sp.4	Abt	-	0	0	10	0
	<i>Tibouchina granulosa</i> (Desr.) Cogn	Arv	PI	1	2	1	1
	Species 1	Arv	-	1	1	0	0
MIRTACEAE	Species 1	Arv	-	0	0	2	0
MOLLUGINACEAE	<i>Mollugo verticillata</i> L.	Her	-	1	0	0	0
OXALIDACEAE	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	Her	-	35	42	40	54
PASSIFLORACEAE	<i>Passiflora</i> sp.	Lia	-	1	0	0	0
	<i>Passiflora cincinnata</i> Mast.	Lia	-	0	0	0	1
PIPERACEAE	<i>Piper clausenianum</i> (Miq.) C.DC.	Abt	-	13	6	24	13
	<i>Pothomorphe umbellata</i> (L.) Miq	Abt	-	28	4	36	9
PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L.	Her	-	4	6	0	0
POACEAE	<i>Brachiaria cf. subquadrifida</i> (Trin.) Hitchc.	Her	-	7	12	1	5
	<i>Brachiaria</i> sp.1	Her	-	19	14	4	4
	<i>Brachiaria</i> sp.2	Her	-	13	0	6	2
	<i>Digitaria</i> sp	Her	-	5	9	2	8
ROSACEAE	<i>Prunus sellowii</i> Koehne.	Arv	ST	3	1	3	1
ROSACEAE	<i>Rubus rosifolius</i> Smith	Lia	-	2	3	3	8
RUBIACEAE	<i>Chiococca alba</i> (L.) Hitch	Abt	-	0	0	1	0
	<i>Palicourea marcgravii</i> St. Hill.	Abt	-	4	0	0	0
	<i>Psychotria sessilis</i> Vell.	Arv	ST	1	0	4	0
	<i>Spermacoce verticillata</i> L.	Her	-	2	0	0	0
RUTACEAE	<i>Zanthoxylum rhoifolium</i> Lam.	Arv	ST	0	0	0	1
SALICACEAE	<i>Casearia</i> sp.	Arv	SI	0	0	1	0
SAPINDACEAE	Species 1	Lia	-	8	1	1	0
SCHIZAEACEAE	<i>Lygodium volubile</i> Sw.	Her	-	37	0	0	0

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**Table 1...**  
**Tabela 1...**

SCROPHULARIACEAE	<i>Buddleia brasiliensis</i> Jacq. Ex Spreng.	Her	-	3	0	0	0
SIPARUNACEAE	<i>Siparuna guianensis</i> Aubl.	Arv	SI	1	1	3	0
SOLANACEAE	<i>Physalis pubescens</i> L.	Her	-	0	1	0	0
	<i>Solanum americanum</i> Mil.	Her	-	15	46	16	27
	<i>Solanum cernuum</i> Vell	Arv	PI	3	1	3	2
	<i>Solanum erianthum</i> D.Don	Arv	PI	2	0	5	7
	<i>Solanum cf. leucodendron</i> Sendt.	Arv	PI	1	2	1	6
	<i>Solanum paniculatum</i> L.	Abt	-	2	5	2	1
	<i>Vassobia breviflora</i> (Sendtn.) Hunz.	Arv	PI	0	0	6	1
	Species 1	Abt	-	0	0	1	0
THELYPTERIDACEAE	<i>Thelypteris dentate</i> (Forssk.) E.P.St.John	Her	-	0	0	0	20
URTICACEAE	<i>Cecropia glaziovii</i> Snethl.	Arv	PI	0	4	4	1
	<i>Cecropia hololeuca</i> Miq.	Arv	PI	47	12	59	21
VERBENACEAE	<i>Lantana trifolia</i> L.	Abt	-	0	2	0	0
VIOLACEAE	<i>Anchietea salutaris</i> A. St.-Hil.	Lia	-	1	0	0	0
INDETERMINADA	Species 1	Arv	-	0	0	7	0
	Species 2	Arv	-	0	0	2	0
	Species 3	Arv	-	0	0	0	1
	Species 4	Lia	-	0	1	2	0
	Species 5	Lia	-	1	0	1	1
	Species 6	Lia	-	3	0	1	0
	Species 7	Lia	-	2	0	0	0
	Species 8	Lia	-	9	0	0	0
TOTAL				823	539	722	565

families, two unidentified and 86 individuals germinated in the bank of the rainy season were 16 species of nine families, a person remained unidentified (Table 1).

The species that stood out in number of individuals at the end of the seed bank of the dry season were *Cecropia hololeuca* (47), *Trema micrantha* (43) and *Miconia cinnamomifolia* (18) in the initial forest and *C. hololeuca* (59), *Miconia cinnamomifolia* (26) and *T. micrantha* (11) in advanced. At the end of the bank of the rainy season stood out *T. micrantha* (17) and *C. hololeuca* (12) in the initial forest and *C. hololeuca* (21) and *Solanum erianthum* (07) in advanced.

The successional classification of species sampled in seed banks of the two forest stretches analyzed is shown in Figure 2. The comparative graphs show a lot of pioneer species individuals in the forest stretches (initial and advanced).

The dendrogram view that the floristic relationships generated by cluster analysis using the group average (UPGMA), shows that the two major groups, one formed

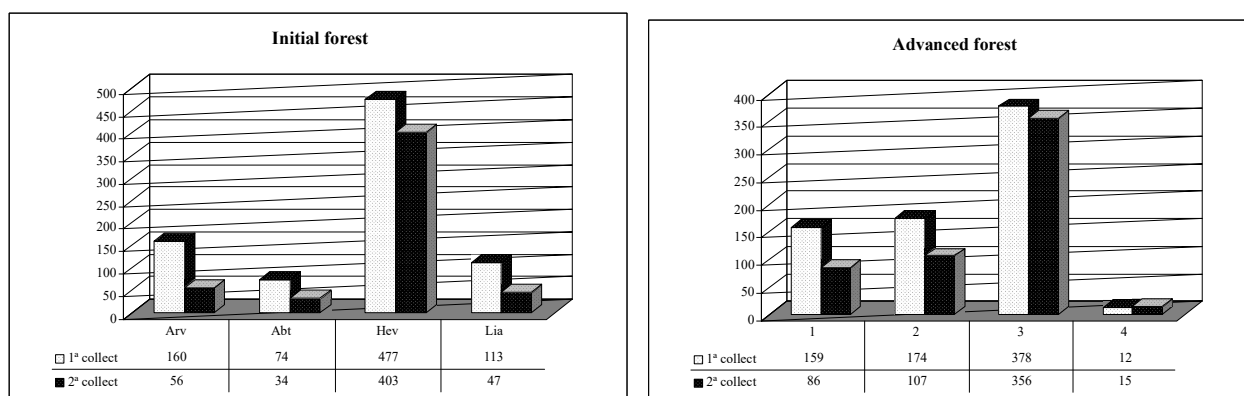
by the plots of the species sampled in 0.5 ha of forest and the other by the species germinated the seed bank of each of these plots showed low floristic similarity ( $J \leq 0.5$ ) (Figure 3).

The greatest floristic similarity observed was among the seed banks of the plot four eight of the original forest, with Jaccard index showing a similarity of species of 79%, followed by banks removed from portions 16:18 Advanced forest with observed similarity between the species of 75%.

We observe also the formation of subgroups with the seed bank samples showing a large heterogeneity among banks stretches. The first subgroup formed between species showed similarity of 25% to 26% the second the third 27%.

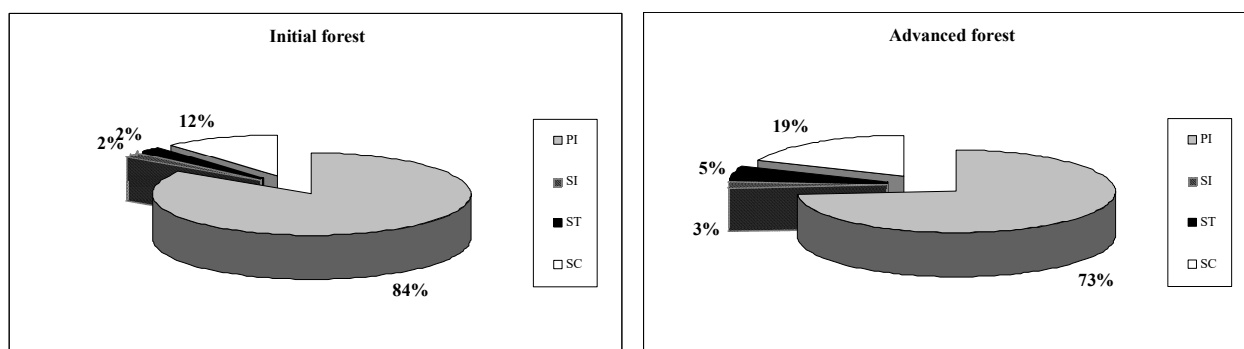
#### 4. DISCUSSION

The results presented by the seed bank with the highest seed germination associated with the end of the dry season did not follow the pattern of temporal



**Figure 1** – Percentages of individuals by life forms sampled in the seed bank in drought station finish (1ª collect) and rainy station (2ª collect) of in the Mata da Agronomia in Viçosa, MG. Arv = tree; Abt. = shrub; Hev. = herb and Lia = liana.

**Figura 1** – Porcentagens de indivíduos por forma de vida, amostradas no banco de sementes coletado no final da estação seca (1ª coleta) e da estação chuvosa (2ª coleta) em cada trecho da Mata Agronomia em Viçosa, MG. Arv = árvore; Abt = arbusto; Hev = herbácea e Lia = liana.



**Figure 2** – Percentage of species by successional categories (SC = not classification; PI = pioneering, SI = initial secondary and ST = late secondary) sampled in the seed bank in each sites of Forest in Mata da Agronomia in Viçosa, MG, Brazil.

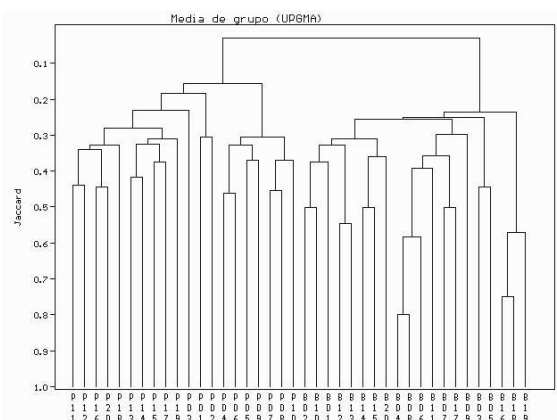
**Figura 2** – Percentual de espécies por categoria sucessional (SC = sem classificação, PI = pioneira, SI = secundária inicial e ST = secundária tardia) amostradas nos bancos de sementes de cada trecho de floresta da Mata da Agronomia em Viçosa, MG, Brasil.

variation in seed production presented in the seed rain study in fragment (BRAGA et al., 2015) where the highest deposition occurred at the end of the rainy season in both stretches of forest.

However, we observed two production peaks in the initial forest of these at the end of the dry season between the months of September and October. This lack of synchrony can be related to factors such as seed dormancy that are produced at the station as an adaptive strategy to resist water stress period or even the impossibility of the same.

The predominance of herbaceous species and individuals as observed in this study was also recorded in the seed bank studied by Calegari et al. (2013), Martin et al. (2008), Souza et al. (2006), Costalonga et al. (2006) and Batista Neto et al. (2007). This predominance of herbaceous species is associated with bank disturbed areas of seeds, where factors such as dispersal mechanisms, size and seed dormancy, seed quantity, life cycle of the species, the absence or non-continuity of the canopy in the forest (facilitating entry and retention of the seeds in the soil), cooperating for such dominance (SOUZA et al., 2006; CALEGARI et al., 2013).





**Figure 3** – Dendrogram obtained using Jaccard similarity index and average linkage method (UPGMA), for the presence and absence data of the species of initial forest (P01 to P10), advance (P11 to P20), the seed bank species of initial forest (B01 to B10) and the seed bank species of advance forest (B11 to B20) in the Mata da Agronomia, Viçosa/MG

**Figura 3** – Dendrograma obtido pelo método da média de grupo (UPGMA), com base no índice de Jaccard, para dados de presença e ausência das espécies das florestas inicial (P01 a P10), da avançada (P11 a P20), das espécies do banco de sementes da floresta inicial (B01 a B10) e as espécies do banco da floresta avançada (B11 a B20) na Mata da Agronomia, Viçosa/MG.

When analyzing the seed bank studies on the lush region (SOUZA et al., 2006; BATISTA NETO et al., 2007; BRAGA et al., 2008) and in other locations in Zona da Mata Mineira (COSTALONGA et al., 2006; MARTINS et al., 2008; CALEGARI et al., 2013), it is observed that the Asteraceae family always stands out with the highest number of species compared with other botanical families, with the particularity of most germinated individuals are herbaceous, way of life considered invasive crops and pastures. The dominance of the family, among the richest species remain even after the seed bank to be impacted by fire (CAMARGOS et al., 2013).

A bank of rich seeds in invasive plant species before a natural or anthropogenic disturbance, with the opening of clearings, could become a problem, to colonize the area, compete with native species and affect the sustainability of the ecosystem (MARTINS, 2001; CALEGARI et al., 2013). As happened in the plots (07-10 initial forest) dominated by species of lianas,

the presence of individual trees was comparatively fewer, warning of possible need for monitoring and interventions in case of change or serious disorders through proper management of area for the advancement of succession.

Interestingly, the germination of liana individuals in the initial forest was higher in the corresponding seed bank at the end of the dry season, a period in which there is increased production of lianas seed as seed rain study data conducted in this patch of forest (BRAGA, et al., 2015). Therefore, the presence of lianas this more associated with initial forest seed banks, which are sometimes responsible for the suppression of plant community, inhibiting or stagnating successional advance.

However, the presence of such species in the initial seed bank does not show its full fragility, because mostly the bank is formed by herbaceous species that has no actual damage to the advancement of succession. Allied to this, the large number of individual trees and shrubs present in the Agronomy Forest's seed bank, especially in the advanced patch of forest, shows the dynamic role of the bank and ensures its self-sustaining regenerative function.

The number of individual trees sprouted at the end of the rainy season was much lower than germinated number at the end of the dry season, probably as the environment adaptive strategy, considering that in the period, the water deficit in the habitat hinder the development and establishment of certain species decreasing the population of those in the community. Note also change the species with the highest number of individuals with the evaluation period. As noted in the species *C. hololeuca*, *T. micrantha* and *Miconia cinnamomifolia*, which always constitute among the most abundant in studies of seed bank in the region (SOUZA et al., 2006; BRAGA et al., 2008; FRANCO et al., 2012), had germination peak in the seed bank collected at the end of the dry season.

Importantly the presence always especially of *C. hololeuca* of individuals that occurred in most samples of the seed bank plots despite the low density of adults in the area, one in the first portion of the original forest. The high density of individuals of that species in the bank can be justified by the long-range dispersal of species of seeds evidenced by seed rain study in the forest (BRAGA et al., 2015).

Although the successional classification of tree species sampled in the seed bank in both stretches of forest (initial and advanced) point a number of germinated pioneering individuals much higher than of late, it was observed in advanced forest seed bank, a decrease the percentage of pioneering individuals and a slight increase in the percentage of individuals of species classified as late. This fact can be explained by the deposition of seeds in scattered bank of local floristic individuals, as *Cariniana estrellensis*, *Jacaranda cf. puberula*, *Maytenus cf. aquifolia*, *Psychotria sessilis*, *Siparuna guianensis*, *Zanthoxylum rhoifolium*, among others.

The heterogeneity observed between the banks of seeds collected in the forest plots may result from changes in the fragment of seed rain, such as the dispersal of seeds, own environmental conditions at the time of deposition and germination of viable seeds, in addition to other factors ranging from the topographic profile to the very successional stage of the forest. According to Machado et al. (2004), heterogeneity should be taken into consideration when looking for ways to conserve biological diversity of forest remnants.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The potential germination of seeds present in the fragment of the seed bank was higher at the beginning of the rainy season and this seed bank in the initial forest.

The form of herbaceous life predominated among individuals germinated from the seed bank. Fact that does not threaten the successional dynamics of forest ecosystems, due to the large number of tree and shrub individuals also germinated and low density of herbaceous competing individuals.

Seed germination of ecological group of pioneer species prevailed in both successional stages of seasonal forest fragment Semidecidual ascertained. It was found also a significant germination of late species seeds in advanced patch of forest, important event for the ecological dynamics of the ecosystem in question.

The similarity index showed that current floristic community forest fragment had low contribution to the seed bank of this ecosystem. This index also showed greater similarities between the banks collected in nearby

portions of the same stretch of forest. Therefore, the ecosystem the greatest contributions to the bank are seeds of species that once populated the stretch, pioneers, or dispersed seeds from neighboring fragments.

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