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Collection expeditions of cassava wild relatives in Brazil

This work reports the results of three collection expeditions of cassava wild relatives accomplished to enlarge the wild species collection established at Embrapa/CNPMPF. The expeditions were carried out in two Brazilian environments: 1) Semi-arid region, know as 'caatinga' (thorny forest), northeast Brazil and 2) Savanna or 'cerrados' region, central-west Brazil. In the 'caatinga' expeditions, two collections were performed (21-22/Dec/2005 and 15-16/Feb/2006) in the central-western of Bahia state, traveling around 1500 km, where 18 points of collections were recorded and 7 species found: 1) *M. caerulescens* (5 records); 2) *M. diamantinensis* (1); 3) *M. dichotoma* (6); 4) *M. glaziovii* (1); 5) *M. jacobinensis* (1); 6) *M. maracasensis* (3); and 7) Cassava 'Sete Anos' (1). In the savanna's expedition, one collection was accomplished (17-20/Apr/2006) in the plateau of Brasilia Federal District and Goias state, traveling around 1100 km, where 28 points were recorded, with 17 species found: 1) *M. anomala* (2); 2) *M. cecropiaefolia* (1); 3) *M. falcata* (1); 4) *M. fruticulosa* (2); 5) *M. gracilis* (1); 6) *M. irwinii* (1); 7) *M. mossamedensis* (1); 8) *M. nana* (1); 9) *M. pentaphylla* (1); 10) *M. salicifolia* (1); 11) *M. sparsifolia* (1); 12) *M. stipularis* (1); 13) *M. tomentosa* (2); 14) *M. tripartita* (2); 15) *M. triphylla* (1); 16) *M. tristis* (1); and 17) *M. violacea* (8). Depending on the plant architecture and vegetative stage, cuttings, mature fruits or seedlings were collected. The handling for propagation and field establishment of the collected material are underway.