

**ISOLAMENT OF ENDOPHYTIC AND RHIZOSPHERE-ASSOCIATED BACTERIAS FROM SEMPRE-VIVAS (SYNGONANTHUS ELEGANS)**

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Sempre-vivas (*Syngonanthus elegans*) are native plants from Brazilian mountain ranges and Cerrado and plant inflorescences represent important export product for small farmers. Endophytic bacteria and rhizoplane-associated bacteria were isolated from fifty plants collected from Parque Nacional da Sempre-vivas located in Diamantina City. Endophytes isolation were made by inoculating slices of surface sterilized roots and leaves in semi-solid LB plates. Rhizosphere-associated bacteria were isolated by washing roots with sterilized water for removing the excess of soil and only root-associated soil was extracted for inoculation. Alternatively washed roots were directly plated on LB. All plates were incubated during 3-10 days at 30 °C. Seventy-eight and fifty-two endophytic colonies were isolated from leaves and roots, respectively, and nineteen bacterial colonies were isolated from rhizosphere. Electrophoretic profile (SDS-PAGE) of total protein extract revealed a high level of polymorphism among isolates and bacterial isolates with identical profile were considered as replicates. Partial sequencing of ITS region of rRNA genes using 16IT and 23IT universal primers revealed that *Chromobacterium* was predominant among isolates.

Key words: sempre-vivas, endophytes, SDS-PAGE, rDNA sequencing