

# IABMS International Association of Botanical and Mycological Societies

Professor Tânia Regina dos Santos Silva  
Presidente da Sociedade Botânica do Brasil  
Departamento de Ciências Biológicas  
Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana  
Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brasil  
presidente@botanica.org.br

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Dear Professor Silva,

I am writing to you as President of the Sociedade Botânica do Brasil (SBB) in my role as Chair of the International Association of Botanical and Mycological Societies (IABMS). SBB was selected by IABMS to organize the XX International Botanical Congress (IBC) in 2023, which is now just over two years from now. IABMS has been concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic and has observed that in the last six months the situation in Brazil has worsened which will certainly have consequences for the upcoming IBC. It is now very clear that the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the serious economic impact and social disruption have made planning and especially fundraising to support the IBC in Brazil impossible. Planning of the Congress requires a full two years from the Call for Symposium Proposals to the opening of the Congress. Prior to issuing the Call for Symposia, which should be done in the next month, the funding for the Congress must be in place. With no certainty when the situation will improve it is impossible to determine how long to delay the Congress. With these facts in mind the International Association of Botanical and Mycological Societies concludes that Brazil is unable to host the XX International Botanical Congress and receive international visitors in July 2023 as originally planned. Postponing for a year does not seem to be a good option because it is very uncertain whether there will be significant improvements over the next 12 months. Therefore, I am writing to inform you that the XX IBC in Brazil must be cancelled.

I hope you understand this situation and the decision that has been made. I am sure this is a disappointment to you and the members of the Sociedade Botânica do Brasil. It is a disappointment to me as well.

With best wishes,



Patrick Herendeen, Chair  
International Association of Botanical and Mycological Societies - IABMS