Dear Madam/Sir,

This letter is to support our request for our paper entitled “**The first fully-annotated chloroplast sequence of the large pantropical family Annonaceae**” to be considered for publication as a "short communication" in *Plant Systematics and Evolution*. We feel that this paper describes an important achievement that will greatly contribute for the understanding of Annonaceae and basal angiosperms, as explained below.

In this manuscript, we describe the chloroplast genome of *Uvaria afzelii*, which is the first fully-annotated chloroplast genome of Annonaceae. Of all available plastomes in the Genbank database, only a minority is from basal angiosperms. We believe that the sequence of this plastome will aid to the reconstruction of chloroplast genomes from other Annonaceae species, since it can be used as a closely-related reference genome for assembly. The knowledge that will be collected will then allow for improved phylogeographic analyses to elucidate relationships within, for instance, recently radiated genera or ill-resolved branching events in the Annonaceae family phylogeny. Lastly, species-level DNA barcoding and general understanding of magnoliid evolution as well as investigations of rain forest evolution greatly benefit from this data.

We think that the information in the manuscript is relevant for future phylogenetic, biogeography and biodiversity studies and therefore it is well suited for the *Plant Systematics and Evolution* journal and we hope you consider our paper for publication in your journal.

Finally, I would like to add that the authors Roy H.J. Erkens and Lars Chatrou are individual members of the IAPT.

On behalf of all authors,

Rita Brandão