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Lavras, September 5th 2019

Dear Colleagues

As you probably are all aware of, the Brazilian Science has been suffering constant attacks from our own government, with academic people being treated as extremist left wings as well as being threatened on a daily basis. Furthermore, the national politics on environmental issues is worldwide news, with the Amazon Forest being cut down in a pace never seen in the last 20 years.

Our graduate programs are being shut down. Scholarships for master and doctorate students are being retracted or cut down in a weekly basis, and the budget for our funding agencies are all contingent. Graduate programs were (and still are) paramount for the Brazilian Science – especially regarding biodiversity – to be placed where it is right now, and students are a massive working force in this regard.

Fortunately, not all things are bad. Here at **Universidade Federal de Lavras**, we are in the process of moving to a brand new building, which will hold the institution's biological collections, including the entomological holdings. Despite being granted with a new facility that will ensure all the minimal conditions to maintain biological collections, some things are still uncertain. We now house a collection of about 50 thousand mounted insects, but historically previous designated personnel poorly curated them. In this way, we have a lot of work ahead to put this collection to an acceptable shape.

That being said, and reminding of the cuts we are constantly suffering from an ignorant pool of politics, we are accepting small donations to keep curating our entomological collection. These donations include, mainly, insect pins, which are expensive in Brazil. We do have national brands of insect pins, but they lack the minimal quality to guarantee specimens to be maintained for up to decades. We are accepting insect pins from the sizes 000 to 4.

We do hope that in the near future our political scenario will be better, and that environmental issues in Brazil will be treated seriously. In the case you can contribute with any kind of donation, we will do our best to reply you as soon as possible, in the way that suits you better.

If you do want to hear more from me, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Marcel Gustavo Hermes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Dr. Marcel Gustavo Hermes
Curator of Entomology
Universidade Federal de Lavras