

## PREFACE

Brazil is home to equatorial, tropical, semi-arid, highland tropical, and subtropical climatic regions. The semiarid region of Northeastern Brazil, considered an area of drought polygon, has distinctive scrub vegetation referred to as Caatinga that covers over 10% of the Brazilian territory with approximately twenty million inhabitants. The Caatinga is considered one of the 37 Wilderness Areas of the World, and it plays an important role in the maintenance of regional macro-ecological processes, as well as indirectly supporting regions with biodiversity and endemism.

The Brazilian semiarid region is also home to Neotropical fish species that occur in diversified aquatic ecosystems, exhibiting different strategies to survive and reproduce. In this scenario of fantastic diversity there exists an intensive and yet insufficiently known interaction of environmental factors and fish communities. To fully understand this it is necessary to know the details about how it works.

This volume assembles research articles on different themes of biology of semiarid fish species. The contents of the ten articles show at least a fraction of the biology and adaptations of fish species to survive and complete their reproductive cycle in the aquatic ecosystems of semiarid Caatinga ecoregion. The articles address aspects of ecological distribution of fish communities, fish reproduction and behavior, anatomy and histology of the digestive tract and feeding habits of fish, and impacts of fish culture and of fish parasites. This information is important to fish biologists, ecologists, and to all individuals with an interest in fish species.

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