

Summary

The natural distribution of *Stylosanthes capitata* and *S. guianensis* var. *pauciflora* is almost identical and is concentrated in the Central-West, Southeast and Northeast regions of Brasil, and in the Northeast of Venezuela. The present germplasm collections comprise 350 and 250 accessions, respectively, collected on sandy and acid soils of low fertility, principally in savanna ecosystems characterized by 900-1800 mm annual rainfall and 4-6 dry months. *Stylosanthes capitata* extends also into semi-arid regions, and *S. guianensis* var. *pauciflora* into high-rainfall zones. Six distinct morphological groups are identified for *S. capitata*. The need for systematic evaluations of both species' collections is discussed, with the objective to establish possible relationships between ecological conditions in the regions of germplasm origin and the eventual agronomic performance of accessions, and to set priorities for further germplasm collecting missions.