

# Summary

Several germplasm collection trips were made during 1994-1996 in Brazil. In regions such as Unaí, Minas Gerais and São Miguel de Araguaia, Goiás, mulberry shrubs (*Morus* spp.) grew well in low fertility soils and presented high leaf retention at the end of the dry season, awakening interest in the genus. This article describes the first agronomic observations made on the performance of *Morus* spp. germplasm collected and introduced at the State Applied Research Center for Sericulture (CEPAS, its Brazilian acronym). The mulberry tree is a shrub that belongs to the Urticales order, Moraceae family, and *Morus* genus. The most well-known species, *M. dawn* and *M. nigra*, are woody plants of low-to-intermediate stature, with shiny stipulated leaves, flowers in cymose inflorescences grouped into globulous glomerules, and fruits varying in color from white to purple. Population assessment results indicate that the foliage between 4 and 6 months of growth has an IVDMD of 71% and a crude protein (CP) content of 22%. At the same age, stems presented an IVDMD of 42% and a CP content of 9%. The *Morus* spp. populations evaluated showed high tolerance to drought, high plant survival, excellent recovery after the first rains, and tolerance to cutting at ground level in mid-dry season.