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A Response to "Shedding Light on the Relevance of Asexual Reproduction in the Savannas: Cloning in Velloziaceae" by Maracahipes et al. (2024): Biotropica 2024 https://doi.org/10.1111/btp.13343

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Clonality and asexual reproduction in two species of *Vellozia* Vandelli are reported as the focus point of this interesting Natural History Field Note. It adds *Vellozia variabilis* and *V. tubiflora* to a list of species in which aboveground clonality has been formally reported and/or illustrated, namely: *V. auriculata* (Mello-Silva and Menezes 1999); *V. leptopetala* and *V. epidendroides* (Jacobi and Del Sarto 2007); *V. dracaenoides* and *V. compacta* (Alves et al. 2014; Alves 2023a, 2023b). The latter two online books may be too recent for the authors to know. Another interesting result of this paper is the relative absence of juvenile specimens in the studied populations, which I also found in my study localities (all of my references herein).

The statement that "this is one of the first records of cloning from aboveground stems in Cerrado plant species" is an exaggeration, as exemplified by *Leiothrix flagellaris* Ruhland (Eriocaulaceae) (Figueira et al. 2007). Aboveground clonality in the Cerrado is also well known for many bromeliads (e.g., Sampaio et al. 2002); orchids and other epiphytes, several fern species, and some interesting Marcgraviaceae.

From outside the Cerrado, I exemplify some of the crucial works on clonality, including aboveground: Jeník (1994) reviewed clonality (including aboveground) in woody plants, citing many previous works, including his own; Klimeš et al. (1997) further elaborated on the general features of clonality; and Windisch et al. (2008), who described a type of clonal growth of fallen caudices of *Dicksonia sellowiana* in southern Brazil, which is very similar to the type found in many species of *Vellozia* spp. This is also the case of *Alsophila setosa* (Schmitt and Windisch 2006).

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

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