**Comments in response to Reviewer #1**

**Manuscript title:** Germination and seedlings growth of ornamental species of Passiflora L. under artificial shading

**Date of resubmission:** February 03, 2011

*Comment 4. Are the article’s introduction, organization and the length satisfactory? NO*

*Authors*: modifications were carried out in the Introduction part in order to make it more dynamic and present more clearly the research problem addressed.

*Comment 7. Is discussion pertinent and satisfactory? NO. Discussion is missing, and there in the first paragraph a misinterpretation as to the ESI*

*Authors*: According to Edmond and Drapala (1958), lower values of emergence speed index (ESI) mean higher rates of seedling emergence, as indicated in the discussion part of the manuscript for our species. Unlike germination speed index (GSI), described by Maguire (1962), a parameter which mainly assesses the uniformity of germination and that indicates that the higher the value of GSI, the less time needed for uniform germination. We decided to use only ESI because we evaluate the influence of abiotic stress (*e.g.*, light) on the emergence and adaptability of these seedlings, since a faster rate of emergence.

*Comment 12. Are figures illustrating and of good quality for reproduction?*

*Authors*: all figures have been improved in order to increase resolution. We chose to withdraw the equations of Figure 2, because these were disturbing the viewing of figure. We created a table (Table 2) containing all the regression equations before shown in Figure 2.

*9. Is there any need to add some items to make the article more interesting? A little more discussion and a conclusion at the end of discussion*

*15. Are references adequate and necessary? NO*

*16. Are references place according to the journal’s norms? NO*

*Authors*: discussion part and conclusion have been improved. References were updated, including relevant recent work published in international journals of high impact factor. Moreover, the references are updated according to the journal’s norms.