**Declaração de Importância**:

Tree leaves are essential elements in forests as participants in biogeochemical processes. However, plants depend on abiotic factors to perform biochemical processes such as photosynthesis. For understory plants, light may be limiting. Understanding the mechanisms that allow the leaves to maximize the light absorption is fundamental to understand the forest dynamics. This study aimed to evaluate how the leaf attributes can maximize the light capture in six tree species of the Araucaria Forest. The results showed that these foliar attributes form an advantageous architecture for the capture of light. This is likely due to the selective pressure that the understorey light condition imposes on the development of plants.