

BIOGEOMORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE RIBEIRÃO DO CHIQUEIRO BASIN, GOUVEIA, MG-BRAZIL.

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The objective of this research is to establish the relation between the physiognomic characteristics of the tree vegetation cover of the Cerrado, such as total height, branch height, productivity and structure with the geomorphologic characteristics of the basin. Then slopes from Chiqueiro basin, localised in Gouveia, MG, Brazil, were chosen using aerial-photographs (1:25.000). They were selected from a population of 320 on the basis of a Cluster analysis that have classified slopes with similar gully form. In each slope, geomorphological sites were identified, in the middle of which a soil profile was described and samples were collected. The characteristics of the tree strata were measured using the square method. Through statistic analysis it was possible to identify high values of the physiognomic characteristics as well as productivity of those trees growing on soil derived from metabasic rocks occurring normally in the valleys, amphitheaters and hollows. The low values correspond to those growing over granite and schist derived soils, located preferentially in the upper and middle slope. Frequency and distribution analysis of the 40 tree species identified showed that *Eugenia dysenterica* is the most abundant specie and the one with the largest distribution. The data obtained corroborated a strong correlation between underlying rock and the geomorphologic dynamics of the slope, analysed on the basis of the characteristics of the tree vegetation of Cerrado. * Financially supported by FAPEMIG.