

Phytochemical variation in wild populations of three species of *Aloysia*: Implications for Medicinal Plant Conservation

Chapman, Rebekah (Ecology Department, University of Georgia), **Jim Affolter** (State Botanical Garden of Georgia, University of Georgia), and **David Giannasi** (Botany Department, University of Georgia)

Species of the genus *Aloysia* are used throughout Argentina for their medicinal properties and are important components in the *yerba mate compuesta* industry. Most of these plants are currently wildcrafted throughout the country. Quantitative phytochemical analyses (TLC, GC/Mass spec) are being performed to examine within population variation in the species *Aloysia triphylla*, *A. polystachia*, and *A. gratissima*. We will be identifying the different essential oil and flavanoid concentrations in the stems and leaves of these three species. This analysis will also be used to compare chemical concentrations in wild species with those found in cultivars and samples obtained from local vendors. (Poster)