



## A new species of *Pavonia* (Malvaceae) from the Atlantic coastal forests of eastern Brazil

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### Abstract

*Pavonia paucidentata* is described, adding a new species to *Pavonia* subgenus *Goetheoides*, a group that is endemic to the wet coastal forests of easternmost Brazil. This increases the number of species in the subgenus to 27, which is considered to be a high level of diversity for arborescent species in this geographically and ecologically limited area.

### Resumen

Se describe *Pavonia paucidentata* y anexo a *Pavonia* subgen. *Goetheoides*, que se encuentra solamente en los bosques húmedos a lo largo de la costa del este de Brasil. La especie nueva aumenta el número de especies del subgénero hasta 27, que es un alto nivel de diversidad de especies arborescentes en esta zona limitada tanto en ecología como en geografía.

### Introduction

*Pavonia* subgenus *Goetheoides* (Gürke ex Martius, 1892: 479) Ulbrich (1921: 66) is endemic to the narrow strip of wet forest that occurs along the Atlantic coast of Brazil (Mori et al., 1983), extending from approximately 8° to 22° S latitude, including coastal parts of the states of Pernambuco, Bahia, Espírito Santo, and Guanabara. A key to subgenera, sections, and subsections of *Pavonia* can be found on pages 11–13 in Fryxell (1999). The diversity among the species in the subgenus is great, and this diversity has become increasingly apparent in the last few decades as new species have been discovered and described by Monteiro (1972), Krapovickas (1982; 1990), Esteves & Krapovickas (1995) and Fryxell (1999). Twenty-six species (shrubs or small trees, sometimes to 8 m tall in *P. crassipedicellata*, *P. sancti*, and *P. spectabilis*) were included by Fryxell (1999) in this subgenus, and one more is described herein. One of these species (*P. × gledhillii*) is an interspecific hybrid (*P. makoyana* × *P. multiflora*) produced artificially and known only in cultivation (Cheek, 1989), but the remaining species are all endemic to the wet coastal forests just described (Table I). Most of the species listed have had illustrations published, which are cited in Table II, that graphically portray this diversity. Several of these species have been taken into horticulture as ornamental shrubs, notably *P. multiflora*, *P. × gledhillii*, *P. makoyana*, *P. cauliflora* and *P. strictiflora*.

These coastal wet forests are described and put into historical context by Mori et al. (1983). It may be noted that habitat destruction is rapidly advancing in this narrow ecological zone, as is graphically illustrated in Mendonça et al. (1994). Maps illustrating this progressive destruction are reproduced on-line at <http://www.nybg.org/bsci/res/bahia/Defor.html>. The result of this habitat destruction is that many species, such as some of these in *Pavonia*, are doubtless going extinct, even as new ones are being discovered and described. Thomas et al. (1998: 316, fig. 2) described three tropical lowland centers of endemism, and the species of *Pavonia* subgen. *Goetheoides* are found in all three centers.