



Anchietea ferrucciae (Violaceae), a new species from the Brazilian Caatinga

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Abstract

A new species of *Anchietea* (Violaceae) is described and illustrated. *Anchietea ferrucciae* is characterized by its 4-carpellate ovary, small flowers and mostly, by its obovate seeds, cuneate at the base, and with a narrow, toothed wing. The new species is narrowly endemic to a very restricted area of the dry Caatinga in Bahia state (Brazil). An identification key to the species of *Anchietea* is provided.

Uma nova espécie de *Anchietea* (Violaceae) é descrita e ilustrada. *Anchietea ferrucciae* é caracterizada por seu ovário 4-carpelar, flores menores e principalmente, por suas sementes obovais, cuneadas na base, com ala estreita e denteada. A nova espécie é endêmica de uma área bastante restrita na Caatinga do estado da Bahia (Brasil). Uma chave de identificação para as espécies de *Anchietea* é fornecida.

Key words: Brazil, endemic, lianescent

Introduction

Anchietea A.St.-Hil. is a small lianescent genus of Violaceae, comprising six species (four described to date) in extra-Amazonian tropical South America and the Andes (Paula-Souza 2009). The genus is well characterized by its membranaceous, inflated capsules, usually prematurely exposing the strongly flattened seeds to maturation. According to recent phylogenetic studies (Feng 2005, Tokuoka 2008, Paula-Souza 2009) *Anchietea* is nested within a “lianescent clade”, a strongly supported group that includes all lianescent genera of the family (*Agatea* A.Gray, *Corynostylis* Mart. and *Hybanthopsis* Paula-Souza).

Anchietea has been an overlooked and very poorly known genus, despite its small number of species, and recent studies have revealed some noteworthy novelties in the group (Paula-Souza 2009, Hoffmann *et al.* unpubl.), including two undescribed species, one of which is presented here. Until recently, the species of *Anchietea* have not been treated critically in a revisionary work, and the identification keys available were only those from regional floras as Eichler (1871), Baehni & Weibel (1941), Smith & Fernández-Pérez (1954). Furthermore, the literature currently available concerning *Anchietea* uses only seed characters for the recognition of the species, which in most cases prevents an adequate determination of flowering specimens. Although seeds indeed greatly ease the task of identifying an *Anchietea* specimen, recent taxonomical studies (Paula-Souza 2009) detected consistent diagnostic floral characters to species delimitation, allowing accurate determination of specimens in both reproductive phases.

Materials and methods

The study was based on a revision of literature, field observations of living specimens, as well as consults to