



## *Paepalanthus hirtellus*, a new species of *Paepalanthus* subsection *Actinocephaloides* (Eriocaulaceae) from Minas Gerais, Brazil

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### Abstract

In this article we describe and illustrate the new species *Paepalanthus hirtellus* (Eriocaulaceae, Paepalanthoideae). The species is, as far as known, restricted to Pico do Itambé State Park, in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. *Paepalanthus hirtellus* occurs on the campos rupestres of the Espinhaço Range. We compare it with *P. lombensis* and *P. chrysophorus*, the two morphologically most similar species. We provide additional comments on the morphological variability, habitat, geographic distribution and we provide its conservation status.

### Resumo

Descrevemos e ilustramos a nova espécie *Paepalanthus hirtellus* (Eriocaulaceae: Paepalanthoideae). Até o momento, a espécie é restrita ao Parque Estadual do Pico do Itambé, Minas Gerais, Brasil. *Paepalanthus hirtellus* ocorre nos campos rupestres da Cadeia do Espinhaço. Comparamos esta espécie com *Paepalanthus lombensis* e *Paepalanthus chrysophorus*, duas das espécies de morfologia mais similar. Comentamos, também, sobre a variação morfológica, habitat, distribuição geográfica e status de conservação.

**Key words:** Espinhaço Range, IUCN Red List, Pico do Itambé, campos rupestres, taxonomy

### Introduction

*Paepalanthus* Martius (1843: 28), *nom. cons.*, is the largest Neotropical genus of Eriocaulaceae. It has the largest number of species in eastern Brazil, mainly in the Espinhaço Range in the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia, where it is also most diverse in morphology (Koernicke 1863, Ruhland 1903, Giulietti & Hensold 1990, Stützel 1998). The genus comprises approximately 500 species, and is subdivided into a number of infrageneric categories. In *Paepalanthus* subgenus *Paepalanthus* (= *Paepalocephalus*) Ruhland (1903: 122), the largest section is *P.* section *Paepalanthus* (= *Eriocaulopsis*) Ruhland (1903: 122) with nearly 270 species divided into six subsections. One of these is *Paepalanthus* subsection *Actinocephaloides* Ruhland (1903: 179), which, until now, contains six species, but the monophyly of this subsection has not yet been tested. This subsection has trimerous flowers and is defined by its elongate, usually unbranched stems, that bear verticillate inflorescences at the apex (Ruhland 1903). Except for *Paepalanthus hymenolepis* Silveira (1928: 183), occurring in Serra do Cabral, the remaining species of *P.* subsection *Actinocephaloides* are known to occur in the Diamantina Plateau (Ruhland 1903, Silveira 1928).