



Transferring *Oncidium novaesae* to *Gomesa* (Orchidaceae) and notes on *Gomesa doeringii*

CLAUDIO NICOLETTI DE FRAGA¹ & ANDRÉ PAVIOTTI FONTANA²

¹Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro. Rua Pacheco Leão, 915, 22.460-030, Jardim Botânico, Rio de Janeiro-RJ, Brazil, E-mail: cnfraga@jbrj.gov.br

²Centro de Referência para Recuperação de Áreas Degradadas – CRAD, Rod. BR 407, km 12, lote 543, Distrito de Irrigação Sen. Nilo Coelho, CEP 56.300-000, Petrolina, Pernambuco, Brazil. E-mail: andrepiotti@yahoo.com.br

Abstract

The study of the Augusto Ruschi type materials currently deposited in the Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão, in Santa Teresa, Espírito Santo State, Brazil, makes it possible to recognise a historically neglected, but validly published species, *Oncidium novaesae*, which is here transferred to *Gomesa*, with designation of a lectotype and indication of synonymy. In addition, a superfluous combination in *Gomesa* is identified.

Key words: *Gomesa*, *Oncidium*, Atlantic Forest, Brazil

Introduction

The genus *Gomesa* R.Br. originally comprised 11 endemic species from Brazil (Pabst & Dungs 1977). However, after molecular phylogenetic analyses based on nuclear and plastid DNA, this number was much increased to encompass most of the Brazilian species previously included in *Oncidium* Sw. (Chase *et al.* 2009), thus making a total of 115 *Gomesa* species. The genus *Gomesa* in this circumscription is widespread in the Neotropics.

Most of the nomenclatural errors observed when transferring species epithets to *Gomesa* (Chase *et al.* 2009) were corrected by Chase (2009), but an omission was only recently detected, since *Oncidium novaesae* Ruschi (1970a), a validly published species, was not considered in any later orchid literature (e.g. Pabst & Dungs 1977, Chase *et al.* 2009), except for two citations by the author of the name (Ruschi 1970b, 1986).

The recognition of *O. novaesae* as a valid but historically neglected taxon was only possible on the basis of the study of the Augusto Ruschi type material currently deposited in the Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão, in Santa Teresa, Espírito Santo State, Brazil. This study also revealed the need for lectotypification of the species and allowed the establishment of recognition of new synonyms. In addition, it was shown that Chase *et al.* (2009) proposed a superfluous new combination for *Theodorea doeringii* Hoehne (1942) in *Gomesa*, because it had previously been transferred to that genus by Pabst (1967) as *G. doeringii* (Hoehne) Pabst.

Gomesa novaesae (Ruschi) Fraga & A.P.Fontana, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Oncidium novaesae* Ruschi, Bol. Mus. Biol. Prof. Mello Leitão, Série Botânica 51: 3. 1970. Type: BRAZIL. Espírito Santo: Santa Teresa, Estação Biológica do Museu Nacional, fl. 4 May 1951, A. Ruschi *s.n.*, no. 1080, (holotype MBML, destroyed). Lectotype (here designated): Maria Stella Novaes' original drawing, in the personal