



## Two new species of *Comanthera* (Eriocaulaceae) from Bahia, Brazil

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### Abstract

Two new species of *Comanthera* (Eriocaulaceae) from Brazil are described and illustrated. *Comanthera lanosa* and *Comanthera retroflexa* are both perennial herbs, endemic to the rocky outcrops of the Espinhaço Range in Bahia state and are also assessed as endangered.

### Resumo

Duas novas espécies de *Comanthera* (Eriocaulaceae) do Brasil são descritas e ilustradas. *Comanthera lanosa* e *Comanthera retroflexa* são endêmicas dos campos rupestres da Cadeia do Espinhaço no Estado da Bahia e consideradas como em Perigo de Extinção.

**Key words:** Campos rupestres, *Comanthera lanosa*, *Comanthera retroflexa*, Espinhaço Range, IUCN Red List, taxonomy

### Introduction

Eriocaulaceae are a pantropical family with 10 genera and approximately 1,200 species, occurring especially in the Espinhaço Range of Minas Gerais and Bahia States, Brazil. Andrade (2007) and Andrade *et al.* (2010) presented phylogenetic studies on Eriocaulaceae and indicated *Syngonanthus* Ruhland (1900: 487) as polyphyletic in two different clades: *Syngonanthus* sect. *Eulepis* (Bong.) Ruhland and *Syngonanthus* sect. *Thysanocephalus* (Körn.) Ruhland are monophyletic and sister to each other in a clade distinct from *Syngonanthus* sect. *Syngonanthus* and *Syngonanthus* sect. *Carphocephalus* (Körn.) Ruhland. These results corroborate previous studies on *Syngonanthus* based on morphology (Parra 2000) and pollen grains (Borges *et al.* 2009).

Parra *et al.* (2010) formally re-established the genus *Comanthera* L.B.Sm. (1937: 38), based on the clade consisting of *S.* sect. *Eulepis* and *S.* sect. *Thysanocephalus*, and provided a new circumscription for the genus. The authors also proposed two subgenera: *Comanthera* subg. *Comanthera*, with 23 species, and *C.* subg. *Thysanocephalus* (Körn.) L.R.Parra & Giul., with 15 species. According to the study, 34 of the 38 species of *Comanthera* are endemic to Brazil, mostly occurring in the rocky outcrops of the Espinhaço Range of Minas Gerais state and in its extension towards the state of Bahia, known as Chapada Diamantina. Parra (2010) also provided the characterization of *Comanthera* as well as the necessary synonymizations, combinations and other nomenclatural proposals.

Ruhland (1903) cited 30 species of Eriocaulaceae for the state of Bahia, based mainly on Blanchet's collections, which were made mostly around the town of Jacobina in the Chapada Diamantina. However, only three of these species can be included in *Comanthera*. Later studies have shown that species richness in this