



Two new species of *Actinocephalus* (Eriocaulaceae) from Minas Gerais, Brazil

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Abstract

We describe and illustrate two new species, *Actinocephalus delicatus* and *A. giuliettiae* (Eriocaulaceae, Paepalanthoideae), from the Espinhaço Range in Minas Gerais, Brazil, and compare them with the morphologically most similar species. Diagnostic characters, morphological variation, geographic distribution, habitat and conservation status, as well as line drawings, photos and a distribution map are provided for both species.

Resumo

Descrevemos e ilustramos duas novas espécies, *Actinocephalus delicatus* e *A. giuliettiae* (Eriocaulaceae, Paepalanthoideae), ocorrentes na Cadeia do Espinhaço, em Minas Gerais, Brasil, e as comparamos com as espécies morfológicamente mais similares. Discutimos caracteres diagnósticos, variações morfológicas, distribuição geográfica, habitat e status de conservação para ambas as espécies, além de apresentarmos ilustrações, fotos e um mapa de distribuição geográfica.

Key words: Atlantic Forest, campo rupestre, Espinhaço Range, taxonomy

Introduction

In his *Flora Brasiliensis*, Koernicke (1863: 321) proposed *Paepalanthus* subg. *Actinocephallus* Koern., a subgenus later elevated to generic status by Sano (2004: 99). The genus was then characterized by paraclades of umbellate capitula and pistillate flowers with completely fused stigmatic branches. Costa (2005) proposed to enlarge this circumscription to include *Paepalanthus* subsect. *Aphoro-caulon* Ruhland (1903: 167) in *Actinocephalus*, to establish monophyly for the taxa as a result of several phylogenetic hypotheses (Giulietti *et al.* 2000, Unwin 2004, Andrade *et al.* 2010, Trovó 2010). Therefore, in this broad circumscription the genus is characterized by the presence of paraclades and simple (completely fused) stigmatic branch.

Actinocephalus is endemic to Brazil and can be found nearly throughout the country. Its area of highest diversity lies in the “campos rupestres” (a Brazilian biome composed of rocky outcrops intermixed with grasslands) in eastern Brazil, in a mountain range named Espinhaço, located in the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia. Most species are endemic to the Espinhaço Range and several of them are microendemic, restricted to a few mountains (Giulietti & Hensold 1990, Costa *et al.* 2008).

Recent taxonomic revisions improved our understanding of particular taxa (Parra *et al.* 2010, Trovó & Sano 2010a, Costa 2005, Sano 2004, Parra 2000, Tissot-Squalli 1997, Hensold 1988), facilitating the