



Two new taxa and two new combinations in *Microstachys* (Euphorbiaceae) from South America

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Abstract

Microstachys nana and *M. ditassoides* subsp. *villosa*, two new taxa endemic to Brazil, are described, illustrated and compared with related species. *Microstachys nana* is closely related to *M. glandulosa* and is distinguished by its herbaceous habit, glabrous to glabrescent branches, pedicellate pistillate flowers, ovary with developed appendages, and inflorescences with spaced flowers. *Microstachys ditassoides* subsp. *villosa* is related to *M. ditassoides* subsp. *ditassoides*, from which differs by its densely villous branches, leaves with flat and sparsely serrate margins, oblong-obovate staminate sepals obtuse at the apex, and externally glabrous pistillate sepals with cylindrical lateral-basal glands. Two new combinations are proposed: *Microstachys glandulosa* is based on *Cnemidostachys glandulosa*, a Brazilian species with broadly elliptic to orbicular, pubescent leaves and marginal glands situated in small lateral lobes; *Microstachys stipulacea* is based on *Gymnanthes stipulacea*, as a glabrous species unusual for its long petioles and stipules and broadly elliptic to suborbicular leaves, and known from the border region between Brazil and Uruguay.

Resumo

Microstachys nana e *M. ditassoides* subsp. *villosa*, dois novos táxons endêmicos para o Brasil são propostos, descritos, ilustrados e comparados com suas espécies afins. *M. nana* é próxima a *M. glandulosa*, mas se diferencia pelo hábito herbáceo, ramos glabros a glabrescentes, flores pistiladas pediceladas, ovário com apêndices desenvolvidos e inflorescências com flores espessadas. *M. ditassoides* subsp. *villosa* é próxima de *M. ditassoides*, da qual difere pelos ramos densamente vilosos, folhas com margem plana e esparsamente serreada, sépalas estaminadas oblongo-obovadas, sépalas pistiladas glabras e com duas glândulas cilíndricas base-laterais. Duas novas combinações são também propostas: *Microstachys glandulosa* baseado em *Cnemidostachys glandulosa*, uma espécie brasileira com folhas largamente elípticas a orbiculares, pubescentes e com glândulas marginalmente distribuídas e *Microstachys stipulacea* baseada em *Gymnanthes stipulacea*, uma espécie conspícua por seus longos pecíolos e estípulas e folhas largamente elípticas a suborbiculares, é conhecida da área compreendida entre o Brasil e Uruguai.

Key words: *Cnemidostachys*, Brazil, Hippomaneae, taxonomy, Uruguay

Introduction

Microstachys Jussieu (1824: 48, tab. 15) is a pantropical genus of Euphorbiaceae, tribe Hippomaneae, with ca. 17 species (Esser 1998, 2001). The species are mostly herbs or subshrubs of open exposed places. It is one of the taxonomically difficult genera of the family because of the very small size of the much reduced flowers and the remarkable morphological variability of the vegetative parts, in particular indumentum and leaves (Esser 1998).

Four of the species are paleotropical, the remaining ones neotropical, with the centre of diversity in Brazil (Esser 1998, Govaerts *et al.* 2000). In Brazil, *Microstachys* is represented in many types of vegetation, and in