



A new species of *Leandra* (Melastomataceae, Miconieae) from Atlantic Forest, Southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Leandra* from the Atlantic Forest (Mata Atlântica) of the state of Minas Gerais, Southeastern Brazil, is described and illustrated here. *Leandra gynoverrucosa* can be recognized by the prominent interpetiolar ridges, leaves with a conspicuous reticulation, long petioles and decurrent base, petals twice as long as the hypanthium, anthers with a wide pore, an internal hypanthium and ovary surfaces covered by small pedicellate glands.

Key words: Minas Gerais; Montane Forest; Eastern Brazil; *Miconia*

Introduction

Leandra Raddi is a genus of shrubs, occasionally treelets, that belongs to the neotropical berry-fruited tribe Miconieae in the Melastomataceae. The genus is traditionally circumscribed within the Miconieae by the combination of terminal inflorescences and acute petals (Cogniaux 1891). With over 250 accepted species throughout the neotropics, the genus is divided into seven sections. Recently, it was demonstrated that two of these sections (*Secundiflorae* Cogn. and *Tschudya* Cogn.) are clearly not related to the other five (Martin *et al.* 2008, Goldenberg *et al.* 2008). In the other five sections, most species are endemic to the Atlantic Forest in Eastern Brazil (ca. 200 species) and are likely to form a monophyletic group, which also includes the species of *Ossaea* DC. and *Clidemia* D. Don endemic to Eastern Brazil, and all *Pleiochiton* A. Gray species (Martin *et al.* 2008, Goldenberg *et al.* 2008, Reginato *et al.* 2010). This clade of Atlantic Forest endemic shrubs with acute petals has been called *Leandra* sensu stricto (Goldenberg *et al.* 2008). Although this group is well supported, relationships within it remain unclear.

In this paper a new species of *Leandra* sensu stricto is described and illustrated. This specimen was discovered during the course of systematic studies of *Leandra*, part of the complete taxonomic inventory and description of the tribe (PBI Miconieae), among unidentified specimens in the US herbarium. Although known by a single collection, the unique morphological features as well as the molecular data (Reginato & Michelangeli in prep.) indicate that *L. gynoverrucosa* is a new taxon.

Leandra gynoverrucosa Reginato, *sp. nov.* (FIGS 1A–F, 2A–C)

Leandra gynoverrucosa a speciebus ad sectionem *Oxymeris* pertinentibus, praesertim nodis prominentibus jugis, foliis conspicuis reticulatis, longe petiolatis et basi decurrentibus, petalorum duplum ad hypanthio, antheris apice truncatis macroporosis, hypanthio interioribus et ovarium exterioribus parvae glandulosis.

Type:— BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Itamonte, Serra da Mantiqueira, 1600 m, 8 October 1982, fl., G.G. Hatstchbach, 45546 & R. Kummrow (holotype MBM!, isotype US!).