



***Syngonanthus restingensis* (Eriocaulaceae): A remarkable new species endemic to Brazilian coastal shrublands**

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Abstract

Syngonanthus restingensis (*S.* sect. *Syngonanthus*) is described from open shrubby restinga in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, Brazil. The species lacks close relatives, and some unusual traits are discussed, including floral bracts, hydathodes, and pseudovivipary. Its IUCN Conservation Status is assessed as Endangered.

Key words: taxonomy, Atlantic Forest, restinga, pseudovivipary

Resumo

Syngonanthus restingensis (*S.* sect. *Syngonanthus*) é descrita para a restinga aberta arbustiva dos estados do Rio de Janeiro e da Bahia, Brasil. A relação da espécie com outras de *S.* sect. *Syngonanthus* é desconhecida e essa espécie possui algumas características não usuais no gênero, como a presença de brácteas florais, hidatódios e pseudoviviparidade, que são discutidas no presente trabalho. A sua categoria na IUCN é assinalada como ameaçada de extinção.

Palavras chave: taxonomia, Mata Atlântica restinga, pseudoviviparidade

Introduction

The genus *Syngonanthus* Ruhland, as recently emended by Parra *et al.* (2010), contains about 135 mostly Neotropical species. The highest diversity of species is found on wet sandy soils of the Precambrian Shields of Guiana and Central Brazil, as well as in Amazonian sand *campinas*. A few, mostly widespread species, extend to Atlantic coastal restinga.

Recently, a distinctive new *Syngonanthus* has come to light, known from only three restinga sites in the states of Rio de Janeiro and southern Bahia, where it occurs in a relatively restricted habitat type, sometimes known as "Ericaceae scrub," characterized by poor drainage and scattered shrub islands among sand dunes (Montezuma & Araujo 2007). The coastline from the northern littoral of Rio de Janeiro state to Bahia has been visited by botanical collectors since the early 19th century (Araujo *et al.* 2001). However, the species here described was first collected only in 1953, by Segadas-Vianna in the restinga of Barra de São João (Rio das Ostras), followed by Araujo in the restinga of Carapebus, and by Hatschbach in southern Bahia (Fig. 1). The species came to the simultaneous attention of the authors independently, on the basis of specimens from different localities. Given the rapid ongoing loss of restinga habitat due to development, it may already be