



The discovery of *Lacandonia* (Triuridaceae) in Brazil

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Abstract

Lacandonia schismatica (Triuridaceae) is a species only known from Mexico. Recently a very similar plant was discovered in a fragment of the Atlantic Forest in northeastern Brazil and it is described here as a new species. This is the first record of *Lacandonia* in South America.

Resumo

Lacandonia schismatica (Triuridaceae) é conhecida apenas para o México. Recentemente uma planta muito similar foi encontrada em um fragmento de Floresta Atlântica no Nordeste do Brasil, e aqui está sendo descrita como uma nova espécie. É o primeiro registro de *Lacandonia* para a América do Sul.

Key words: Atlantic forest, Dioscoreales, myco-heterotrophs plants

Introduction

Triuridaceae are found throughout tropical and subtropical forests of the Old and New World (Maas & Rübsamen 1986), comprising 11 genera and approximately 50 species (Maas-van de Kamer & Weustenfeld 1998, Cheek 2003). Their representatives occur in the understory among decaying leaves, and only appear for a short period of time when flowering and fruiting. The family characteristically includes myco-heterotrophic species that are usually small (with the exception of *Sciaphila purpurea* Bentham (1855: 11), which can reach 1.4 m in height); and are monoecious or dioecious, with alternate leaves; small and actinomorphic, unisexual or bisexual flowers, superior ovaries, and fruits an achene or follicle (Maas & Rübsamen 1986, Maas-van de Kamer & Maas 1994, Maas-van de Kamer & Weustenfeld 1998, Gandolfo 2004). The family is subdivided into three tribes: Kupeaeae, Sciaphileae and Triurideae (Maas-van de Kamer & Weustenfeld 1998, Cheek 2003).

The tribe Kupeaeae, endemic to Africa, has dioecious species, flowers sessile, style completely apical and includes the genera *Kupea* Cheek & S.A. Williams and *Kihansia* Cheek (Cheek 2003). Sciaphileae, with five genera, is characterized by monoecious and unisexual or bisexual flowers, basal styles and bearded or rarely caudate tepals. Three of the genera are confined to the Old World (*Andruris* Schltr., *Hyalisma* Champion and *Seychellaria* Hemsl.), *Sciaphila* Blume is also represented in the New World, and *Soridium* Miers. is restricted to the Neotropics. Triurideae is recognized by dioecious plants, with a lateral style and long-caudate tepals. It is endemic to the Neotropics and comprises the following genera: *Lacandonia* E. Martínez & Ramos, *Peltophyllum* Gardner, *Triuridopsis* H. Maas & Maas and *Triuris* Miers (Maas & Rübsamen 1986, Maas-van de Kamer & Weustenfeld 1998, Gandolfo 2004).