



## ***Handroanthus grandiflorus* (Bignoniaceae), a new species from the semiarid region of Brazil**

FABIO DA SILVA DO ESPÍRITO SANTO<sup>1</sup>, MILENE MARIA DA SILVA-CASTRO<sup>2</sup>  
& ALESSANDRO RAPINI<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Av. Transnordestina, s/n, Novo Horizonte, 44036-900, Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil. E-mail: fse.santo@yahoo.com.br

<sup>2</sup> Universidade Estadual do Sudoeste da Bahia, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Rua José Moreira Sobrinho, s/n, Jequiezinho, 45206-510, Jequié, Bahia, Brazil.

### **Abstract**

*Handroanthus grandiflorus*, a new species of Bignoniaceae from the Caatinga biome, is described and illustrated. The species is Critically Endangered, and can be distinguished from its congeners by having a corolla with larger lobes, reaching to  $6.1 \times 4.3$  cm. The diagnostic characters of the new species are discussed.

**Key word:** Caatinga, endangered species, Ipê, *Tabebuia* Alliance, taxonomy

### **Resumo**

*Handroanthus grandiflorus*, uma nova espécie de Bignoniaceae da Caatinga, é descrita e ilustrada. A espécie encontra-se Criticamente Ameaçada e pode ser reconhecida no gênero pela corola com lobos maiores, alcançando até  $6,1 \times 4,3$  cm. Os caracteres diagnósticos da nova espécie são discutidos.

**Palavras-chave:** Aliança *Tabebuia*, Caatinga, espécie ameaçada, Ipê, taxonomia

### **Introduction**

Bignoniaceae comprises 82 genera and 827 species, and is an important component of Neotropical forests (Lohmann & Ulloa 2007). Brazil is a center of diversity for the family (Gentry 1992), with 32 genera and 391 species occurring in the country (Lohmann 2011).

*Handroanthus* Mattos (1970) is a small genus of about 30 species distributed throughout South and Central America, with one species occurring in the Antilles (Grose & Olmstead 2007a). The genus is currently included within the “*Tabebuia* Alliance”, which represents a clade composed mostly of species belonging to tribe Tecomeae *sensu* Gentry (1992) and whose informal name is due to the high number of *Tabebuia* spp. that belong to this lineage (Grose & Olmstead 2007b). *Handroanthus* is characterized by an arboreal habit, palmately compound leaves, (3–)5–9-foliolate, or rarely unifoliolate, with simple and/or branched trichomes, usually 5-lobed campanulate calyx, which is also covered with trichomes, corolla usually yellow, and capsules linear-cylindrical, pubescent, glabrous or sparsely lepidote.

In the course of the inventory of the species belonging to the *Tabebuia* Alliance that occur in the state of Bahia, a new *Handroanthus* species from the Caatinga biome was identified. The new species can be recognized by the corolla lobes, which are larger than in its congeners. This species is known from a single locality and is here described as *H. grandiflorus*.