



***Baccharis umbellata* (Asteraceae, Astereae): a new species endemic to the highest summits of Paraná, Southern Brazil**

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Abstract

Baccharis umbellata, a new species of Paraná State, southern Brazil, is described. The new species, belonging to subgen. *Baccharis* sect. *Agglomeratae*, is easily recognized by the pedunculate heads arranged in an umbel-like capitulescence. *Baccharis umbellata* is a narrow endemic of the peaks of the southern range of Serra do Mar. It is morphologically most similar to the allopatric species *B. platypoda*, which mainly inhabits mountain summits in western and eastern South America. Illustrations, a distribution map, habitat information, and a conservation assessment are also provided for the new species.

Resumo

Baccharis umbellata, uma nova espécie do estado do Paraná, sul do Brasil, é descrita. A nova espécie pertence ao subgen. *Baccharis* sect. *Agglomeratae* e é facilmente reconhecível pelos capítulos pedunculados, dispostos em uma capitulescência umbeliforme. *Baccharis umbellata* é um endemismo restrito aos picos da porção sul da cadeia da Serra do Mar e é morfologicamente mais similar à espécie alopátrica *B. platypoda*, que vegeta principalmente ao longo dos cumes de montanhas do noroeste e leste da América do Sul. Ilustrações, mapa de distribuição e considerações sobre o habitat e estado de conservação da nova espécie também são fornecidos.

Key words: Atlantic rain forest, Compositae, high altitude tropical grasslands

Introduction

Baccharis Linnaeus (1753: 860; Asteraceae: Astereae) is a New World genus broadly characterized by the usually tufted indumentum of the leaves and stems, with trichomes that have adjoining basal cells, and the common occurrence of dioecy (Müller 2006). The genus comprises between 338 (Müller 2010) and 400 species (Bremer 1994). Barroso (1976) provided the most recent treatment of the genus for Brazil, encompassing about 130 species. Currently, 165 species of *Baccharis* are recorded for the country and a total of 83 of these are found in Paraná State (Heiden & Schneider 2012), which is one of the main centres of species diversity of the genus in Brazil.

During a study of herbarium specimens of *Baccharis* in order to update the checklist of the genus in Paraná State, a previously undescribed species of *Baccharis* was found. This species is described in this paper, illustrated and its affinities, systematic position and area of occupancy are discussed.