



***Parianella* (Poaceae, Bambusoideae): morphological and biogeographical information reveals a new genus of herbaceous bamboos from Brazil**

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Abstract

Differences in the inflorescence morphology and geographical distribution indicate that two species found in the Atlantic Rain Forest of southern Bahia, Brazil, do not belong to *Pariana*, a genus of herbaceous bamboos (tribe Olyreae, Poaceae) where they were previously classified. We describe a new genus, *Parianella*, in order to accommodate these two species. Their taxonomic affinities within subtribe Parianinae are discussed, and a key for identification of genera in this group is presented.

Key words: Atlantic Rain Forest, Bahia, Olyreae, Parianinae, *Eremitis*, *Pariana*

Resumo

Diferenças na morfologia da inflorescência e distribuição geográfica indicam que duas espécies encontradas na Mata Atlântica do sul da Bahia não pertencem a *Pariana*, um gênero de bambus herbáceos (tribo Olyreae, Poaceae) onde elas estavam anteriormente classificadas. Portanto, um novo gênero, *Parianella*, é descrito para acomodar estas duas espécies. As afinidades taxonômicas dentro da subtribo Parianinae são discutidas e é fornecida uma chave para identificação dos gêneros deste grupo.

Introduction

Pariana Aublet (1775: 876) and *Eremitis* Döll (1877: 338) are genera of herbaceous bamboo grasses (tribe Olyreae) included within the subtribe Parianinae. This subtribe is characterized by the varying presence of fimbriae at the apex of the leaf sheaths, sometimes referred to as oral setae, as well as spike-like synflorescences, consisting of successive gynecandrous whorls, each with a central female spikelet surrounded by five or six male ones (Calderón & Soderstrom 1980, Hollowell 1987, 1997, Judziewicz *et al.* 1999, Judziewicz & Clark 2007).

According to a recent classification, *Pariana* includes about 35 species distributed from Costa Rica and Panama to Bolivia and Brazil (Judziewicz *et al.* 1999, Oliveira *et al.* 2004, 2008), with a disjunction in their occurrence between the Amazon basin and the Atlantic Rain Forest of eastern Brazil (Soderstrom *et al.* 1988). *Eremitis* includes about five (Hollowell 1987, Judziewicz *et al.* 1999) or more species (Clayton & Renvoize 1986, Calderón & Soderstrom 1980), but up to now only one has been formally described, *E. parviflora* (Trinius 1834: 105) Calderón & Soderstrom (1980: 20). The latter genus displays a distribution restricted to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, and is known only from Pernambuco, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro states (Hollowell 1987, Santos-Gonçalves 2000, Judziewicz *et al.* 1999, Oliveira *et al.* 2008). *Pariana* and *Eremitis* have been traditionally distinguished from other Olyreae by modifications in the structure of their inflorescences, as well as by the placement of these on individual plants (Fig. 1).