



## A new species of *Microlicia* (Melastomataceae) from the Espinhaço Range, Minas Gerais, Brazil

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### Abstract

A new endemic species of *Microlicia* from campos rupestres of the Espinhaço Range is described and illustrated. The new species is characterized by having leaves of different sizes distributed along the branches, petioles 1–2 mm long, leaf blade that are attenuate at the base, with an entire margins, prominent and thickened nerves mainly on the abaxial surface, and an indumentum of short pale, glandular trichomes and sessile golden glands covering the whole plant. It resembles *M. avicularis*, *M. tomentella* and *M. elegans*, which also occur in the Espinhaço Range, in Minas Gerais state.

### Resumo

Uma nova espécie endêmica dos campos rupestres da Serra do Espinhaço, Minas Gerais, é descrita e ilustrada. A nova espécie caracteriza-se por apresentar folhas de diferentes tamanhos distribuídas ao longo dos ramos, com pecíolos de 1–2 mm de comprimento, lâmina foliar de base atenuata, margem inteira e nervuras bastante proeminentes e espessadas, principalmente na face abaxial da lâmina e indumento constituído de tricomas glandulares curtos e glândulas sésseis recobrendo toda a planta. Assemelha-se a *M. avicularis*, *M. tomentella* and *M. elegans*, as quais também ocorrem na Serra do Espinhaço, estado de Minas Gerais.

**Key words:** *campos rupestres*, Diamantina, endemic, Microlicieae, Serra do Cipó

### Introduction

The Espinhaço Range is the center of diversity for several plant groups (Giulietti *et al.* 1997, Rapini *et al.* 2008) with Melastomataceae being considered one of the main families in *campo rupestre* vegetation (Giulietti *et al.* 1987; Stannard 1995; Munhoz & Proença 1998; Romero & Martins 2002; Zappi *et al.* 2003). Most of the species of *Microlicia* occur in *campos rupestres* (Romero & Martins 2002) and is most diverse in Bahia and Minas Gerais, with a large concentration of endemism in both states (Romero & Woodgyer 2012).

Morphological studies of collections deposited in more than 15 herbaria and fieldwork carried out since 2002 around municipality of Diamantina, in the state of Minas Gerais, revealed up to the present time the occurrence of 36 species of *Microlicia* in the area, of which at least six are taxonomic novelties. In this paper a new species is described and illustrated and affinities with others species presented.

*Microlicia nervosa* R. Romero, *spec. nov.* (Figs. 1–2)

**Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Estadual do Biribiri, Alto da Jacuba, 1382 m, 18°32" S, 43°36'32" W, 14 March 2012, I.M. Araújo, D. Marques & I.M. Franco 252(holotype HUFU!; isotypes BHCB!, DIAM!, K!, P!, RB!).