



Two new species of *Sisyrinchium* (Iridaceae) from Subtropical Highland Grasslands of Southern Brazil

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Abstract

Sisyrinchium antemeridianum and *S. flabellatum* are two new species of *Sisyrinchium* sect. *Hydastylus* that occur in the high altitude grasslands of Southern Brazil, in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. *Sisyrinchium antemeridianum* can be distinguished from similar species by the conspicuous rhizome with remnants of old leaves and flowers with larger tepals and longer, connate filaments. *Sisyrinchium flabellatum* has a distinctive equitant phyllotaxis and a lax inflorescence of numerous flowers with small, typically reflexed tepals. Both species are endemic to the Highlands of Southern Brazil. Morphological descriptions, illustrations and ecological information for both plants are presented.

Resumo

Sisyrinchium antemeridianum e *S. flabellatum* são duas novas espécies de *Sisyrinchium* sect. *Hydastylus* que ocorrem nos campos de altitude da Região Sul do Brasil, nos estados do Rio Grande do Sul e Santa Catarina. *Sisyrinchium antemeridianum* pode ser distinta de espécies similares pelo rizoma conspicuo com remanescentes de folhas senescentes e flores com tépalas mais longas e largas e com a extensão unida dos filetes mais longa. *Sisyrinchium flabellatum* apresenta uma distinta filotaxia equitante e inflorescência laxa com numerosas flores de tépalas pequenas, tipicamente reflexas. Ambas são endêmicas da região de altitude do sul do Brasil. São apresentadas descrições morfológicas, ilustrações e informações ecológicas das espécies.

Key words: *Hydastylus*, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, endemism, taxonomy

Introduction

Iridaceae comprise about 2030 species distributed among 65 to 75 genera (Goldblatt *et al.* 2008). *Sisyrinchium* Linnaeus (1753: 954), with over 140 species, is one of the most important genera of the family and the largest in the Americas (Goldblatt & Manning 2008). In Brazil, 54 species are recorded, some of them endemic (Eggers 2012). Species of *Sisyrinchium* are almost exclusively distributed from North to South America, in temperate or tropical areas (Chukr & Capellari Jr. 2003). The plants occur from wet to dry grasslands, in rocky or sandy soils, and also in highly transformed areas, such as roadsides or grazed and burned fields.

Sisyrinchium (Iridoideae, Sisyrrinchieae) was divided by Ravenna (2000, 2003) in eight sections. Section *Hydastylus* (Bicknell 1900: 373) Ravenna (2000: 17) includes the type species *S. californicum* (Ker Gawler 1807: 983) Aiton (1812: 135) and about ten species of the Paraná Basin Region of Brazil, of which *S. palmifolium* Linnaeus (1767: 122) is the best known. The taxonomic relationships of *Sisyrinchium* proposed