



A new reptant species of *Leandra* (Melastomataceae, Miconieae) from the Atlantic Forest, southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Leandra reptans is a new species from montane Atlantic Forest at the state of Espírito Santo, southeastern Brazil. It can be recognized by its reptant habit, leaves purple beneath and with a perpendicular, peltate-like insertion of the petiole into the strongly cordate blade base, calyx lobes with a basal constriction and antepetalous stamens with dorsal gland-like appendages.

Key words: Espírito Santo, Montane Forest, southeastern Brazil

Introduction

Leandra Raddi (1820: 385) is a genus with around 250 species (Martin et al. 2008), from which about 215 occur in Brazil (Souza & Baumgratz 2012). It is very common in the Atlantic Forest and its taxonomy is poorly known, which sometimes makes specimen determination a hard task (Goldenberg & Reginato 2006). As an example, the same authors listed twelve species of *Leandra* for a single Conservation Unit in the state Espírito Santo, among which four were undetermined, with a strong suspicion that they were undescribed. Despite the great diversity of Melastomataceae found in this state, there was a single endemic species of *Leandra* described from this state until few years ago (*L. fallacissima* Markgraf, 1927: 53). Four species have been recently described: *L. triantha* Camargo & Goldenberg (2009: 223), *L. magnipetala* Goldenberg & Camargo (2009: 220), *L. cristata* Reginato & Goldenberg (2013) and *L. fontanae* Reginato & Goldenberg (2013).

In this paper we describe one of the species listed by Goldenberg & Reginato (2006), for which suitable material was recently collected. The species is only found in the “Estação Biológica de Santa Lúcia”, in the mountains of Espírito Santo.

Leandra reptans R.Goldenb. & Reginato, *sp. nov.* (FIGS 1, 2, 3, 4)

Type:— BRAZIL. Espírito Santo: Santa Teresa, Estação Biológica de Santa Lúcia, 28 November 2005, fl., *L. Kollmann* 8485 (holotype MBML, isotype UPCB).

Reptant shrub, with a plagiotropic axis growing above the soil and producing erect, scandent shoots up to 5 m tall. Young stems terete, slightly swollen at the nodes, these with a faint interpetiolar line; surface sparse to moderately covered with minute (up to 0.1 mm diam.) stellate pedicellate trichomes, these denser and more persistent on the nodal region, caducous elsewhere, sometimes also with minute (0.1–0.2 mm long) unbranched, erect trichomes on the nodal region. Leaves isophyllous; petiole 1.5–2.5 cm long, inserted perpendicularly into the blade (in a peltate-like fashion), with the same stellate and unbranched trichomes as