



A new species of *Ichnanthus* (Poaceae, Paspaleae) endemic to Southern Minas Gerais, Brazil

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Abstract

Ichnanthus adpressus, a new species of Poaceae regarded as endemic to cloud forests of two areas in Southern Minas Gerais, Southeastern Brazil, is described and illustrated. Morphological similarities between the new taxon and other species of *Ichnanthus* are discussed. SEM analysis of the upper antherium in this new species reveals features not yet described for this genus. Comments about phenology, habitat, life history, distribution and conservation status are given.

Key words: cloud forests, grasses, taxonomy, Panicoideae, SEM

Resumo

Ichnanthus adpressus, uma nova espécie de Poaceae considerada endêmica de florestas nebulares de duas áreas no Sul de Minas Gerais, Sudeste do Brasil, é aqui descrita e ilustrada. Similaridades morfológicas entre o novo táxon e outras espécies de *Ichnanthus* são discutidas. A análise de MEV do antécio superior nesta nova espécie demonstrou características ainda não descritas para este gênero. São fornecidos comentários acerca da fenologia, habitat, ciclo de vida, distribuição e estado de conservação.

Palavras chave: florestas nebulares, gramíneas, taxonomia, Panicoideae, MEV

Introduction

Ichnanthus Beauvois (1812: 56) is a grass genus comprising 31 species (Boechat 2005, Mota & Oliveira 2012) distributed throughout the Neotropics, from Mexico to northern Argentina, except for *I. pallens* (Swartz 1788: 23) Munro ex Benth (1861: 414), a pantropical species (Boechat 2005). This genus belongs to the tribe Paspaleae Presl (1830: 208) in the subfamily Panicoideae Link (1827: 202). This tribe was recently reinstated by Morrone *et al.* (2012), who redefined the circumscription of the traditional tribe Paniceae Brown (1814: 582) based on molecular and morphological data.

The defining character of *Ichnanthus* is the presence of wings or scars at the base of the upper antherium, which have been used to characterize its infrageneric classification: *I.* sect. *Ichnanthus* and *I.* sect. *Foveolatus* Pilger (1940: 30) (Stieber 1982, 1987). However, Mota & Oliveira (2012) suggested that this classification is artificial. Thus, an extensive collection effort has been made as part of our ongoing phylogenetic studies in *Ichnanthus* to evaluate the validity of the current classification for this genus and reassess the taxonomy of its Brazilian species.