



Eugenia pipensis, a new species of *Eugenia* sect. *Umbellatae* (Myrtaceae) from northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Eugenia* from the Atlantic rainforest of Rio Grande do Norte is described as *Eugenia pipensis*. The species is close to *E. astringens*, but differs by having calyx lobes 2.5 to 3 mm long and glandulose-verruculose fruits.

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Eugenia* para a Mata Atlântica do estado do Rio Grande do Norte é descrita como *Eugenia pipensis*. A nova espécie é semelhante a *E. astringens*, diferindo pelos lobos do cálice com 2.5–3 mm compr. e frutos glanduloso-verruculosos.

Key words: Taxonomy, Myrteae, Atlantic Forest, restinga, conservation

Introduction

Eugenia L. is a pantropical genus distributed in the New World from southern Mexico, Cuba and the West Indies to northern Argentina and Uruguay, and in the Old World from Sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands, southern Asia, Malaysia, Australia and the Pacific Islands (Snow 2008). In tropical America, it is the largest genus of Myrtaceae, with 1,032 currently known species (WCSP 2012). In Brazil, 371 species of *Eugenia* are recognized (Sobral *et al.* 2012).

The genus can be narrowly characterized as having tetramerous flowers with free calyx lobes, solitary flowers or racemes and an embryo with fused cotyledons (Holst *et al.* 2003). Based on inflorescence types, Berg (1856) recognized eight sections within the genus. One of these, *Eugenia* sect. *Umbellatae* O. Berg is characterized by having axillary inflorescences, called fascicles, with reduced axes or often seemingly isolated flowers. Mazine (2006) carried out a molecular phylogenetic analysis with the aim to test those sections as natural groups and showed that many of the *Eugenia* sections recognized by Berg (1856) cannot be accepted as monophyletic groups. Species of *Eugenia* sect. *Biflorae* O. Berg, *Eugenia* sect. *Glomeratae* O. Berg, *Eugenia* sect. *Uniflorae* O. Berg and *Eugenia* sect. *Corymbiflorae* O. Berg included in the analysis emerged as a clade with low internal resolution, including the type of *Eugenia* sect. *Umbellatae*.

Recent taxonomic studies of Myrtaceae in northeastern Brazil (Amorim & Alves 2011, 2012; Lourenço & Barbosa 2012; Oliveira *et al.* 2012) have aimed to improve collections and identify new species, such as the one described here.