



Taxonomic notes in *Microlicia* (Melastomataceae, Microlicieae)

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Abstract

The genus *Microlicia* comprises approximately 130 species, the characters that define the species are very often tenuous, making delimitation between closely related species difficult. As a result of a taxonomic study on *Microlicia*, 14 new synonyms are proposed here and 10 lectotypes are designated.

Resumo

O gênero *Microlicia* compreende aproximadamente 130 espécies, e as características que definem as espécies são frequentemente muito tênues, tornando difícil a delimitação entre as espécies próximas. Como parte dos estudos taxonômicos do gênero *Microlicia*, são propostos aqui 14 novos sinônimos e designados 10 lectótipos.

Key words: Brazil, *campo rupestre*, lectotypification, Minas Gerais, taxonomy

Introduction

Microlicia Don (1823: 301) is a genus of approximately 130 species, 117 of which occur in Brazil, and at least 115 are considered endemic (Romero & Woodgyer 2013). The genus is extremely diverse in the *campo rupestre* and savannah vegetation of Bahia, Minas Gerais and Goiás (Romero 2003a).

The last complete monograph of *Microlicia* was carried out by Cogniaux (1891) nearly 130 years ago. 99 species were recognized in sections *Chaetostomoides* (Naudin) Cogniaux (1883: 43), *Pseudomicrolicia* Cogniaux (1883: 47), and *Microlicia* (1883: 59). Since then, only section *Chaetostomoides* has been revised, it is now monospecific (Romero 2003b). After Cogniaux's monograph (1891) at least 50 new species were added to the genus, mostly from the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais and Goiás.

The species of *Microlicia* are generally characterized by solitary flowers with five or occasionally six petals; a superior ovary with three or occasionally five locules and capsules dehiscing longitudinally from the apex to the base (Almeda & Martins 2001; Romero 2003b). Difficulty in the delimitation of closely related species may explain the high number of names proposed for several species in the genus. Analysis of type material of 12 binomials and 9 trinomials has allowed lectotypification and new synonymy for some of these names.

Materials and Methods

This study is based on literature and on the analysis of collections deposited in the following herbaria: BM, BR, G, K, HUFU, M, MO, NY, P, and W (acronyms according to Thiers 2013).