



## A new species of *Poecilanthe* (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae, Brongniartieae) from Southeastern Brazil

JOSE EDUARDO MEIRELES<sup>1</sup> & HAROLDO CAVALCANTE DE LIMA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Biology, Duke University, Box 90338, Durham, NC 27708, USA. [jmeireles@gmail.com](mailto:jmeireles@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro. Rua Pacheco Leão 915, Jardim Botânico, Rio de Janeiro, 22460-030, Brazil. [hlima@jbrj.gov.br](mailto:hlima@jbrj.gov.br)

### Abstract

A new legume species from Southeastern Brazil, *Poecilanthe fluminensis*, is described and illustrated. It is readily distinguished from the remaining species of the genus by a combination of exclusively unifoliolate leaves with very short petioles (5–9 mm long), red calyx, and strongly dimorphic anthers (short anthers less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the length of the longer ones). The new species, *P. fluminensis*, appears to be endemic to Rio de Janeiro State, Southeastern Brazil.

### Introduction

The neotropical legume genus *Poecilanthe* Benth (1860: 80) comprises ten South American species, occurring from Colombia and French Guiana to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay (Meireles & Tozzi 2007). *Poecilanthe* belongs to the tribe Brongniartieae Hutchinson (1964: 393), which is nested within the genistoid clade of the papilionoid legumes (Wojciechowski *et al.* 2004).

*Poecilanthe* is characterized by alternate leaves, unifoliolate or imparipinnate with alternate leaflets, papilionaceous flowers with the calyx turbinate or campanulate with 5 teeth, the upper 2 highly united, the wing petals longer than the keel, the stamens monadelphous or diadelphous, with the anthers from sub-equal to strongly dimorphic, and by the dehiscent, woody pod (Meireles & Tozzi 2007). While collecting in the National Park of Itatiaia an unknown species was found by the authors and is described herein as new.

### Taxonomy

*Poecilanthe fluminensis* Meireles & H.C. Lima, *sp. nov.* (Figures 1 and 2)

Differs from other *Poecilanthe* species by the combination of short petiolate (5–9 mm long) unifoliolate leaves and by its red calyx.

Type:—BRAZIL. Rio de Janeiro: Itatiaia, Parque Nacional do Itatiaia, 22 January 2008, fl., H.C. Lima 6854 (holotype RB!, isotypes B!, CEPEC!, K!, MBM!, MO!, NY!, SP!, SPF!, U!).

Tree to 13 m tall; terminal branches brown; axillary bud inconspicuous; stipules 2–10 × 0.5–1 mm, oblong-linear, often persistent, glabrous. Leaves unifoliolate; petiole short, 5–9 mm long; leaflet 9.5–22.7 × 2.5–6.3 cm, narrowly elliptic, more rarely narrowly obovate, base acute; apex acuminate, rarely acute to obtuse, and mucronate; chartaceous to sub-coriaceous; discolor; midvein straight, secondary veins prominent; both faces glabrous on both faces. Inflorescence a panicle, axillary, terminal in position, or rarely cauliflorous; 3–7 cm long, tomentose; peduncle 0.5–2.8 cm long, sometimes presenting some small resting buds along its base; rachis 1.8–5.5 cm long; bract elliptic-ovate, 2.5–3 × 1.3–1.5 mm, outer face sparsely tomentose, caducous; floral bud 1.5–1.7 cm long, oblong-ovate, sub-falcate, 1.5–1.7 cm long, base sub-gibbous, apex acuminate and twisted, tomentose. Flowers 9–12 mm long; pedicel 1–2 mm long; bracteoles 1.5–2 × 1 mm long, ovate to