



Sinningia × *vacariensis* (Gesneriaceae) from Southern Brazil, the first natural hybrid described for the genus

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Abstract

In this paper we describe and illustrate *Sinningia* × *vacariensis* a naturally occurring hybrid between *S. lineata* and *S. macrostachya*, from rocky outcrops inside an Araucaria forest in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Resumo

Neste trabalho, descreve-se e ilustra-se *Sinningia* × *vacariensis*, um híbrido natural entre as espécies *S. lineata* e *S. macrostachya*, ocorrendo em afloramentos rochosos no interior da floresta com Araucária no Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil.

Key words: Gesneriaceae, rocky outcrop, hybridization, clade Dircaea

Introduction

Hybrids between species of the Gesneriaceae family are easy to produce and numerous crosses were obtained by horticulturists and plant growers as appears in the list kept by the Gesneriad society (http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/ir_ges/index.htm). Interspecific hybrids also have been used in an effort to delimit cenospecies and improve classification within the genus *Sinningia* Nees (1825: 297) (Clayberg 1996). Naturally occurring hybrids can also occur, but are rarely reported (Puglisi *et al.* 2011). In Brazil some hybridization events were strongly suspected, based on morphological observation in the field or on herbarium specimens for *Nematanthus* Schrader (1821: 718) (Araujo *et al.* 2005, Chautems 1988, Chautems & Kiyama 2003) and *Vanhouttea* Lemaire (1845: 346) (Chautems 2002, SanMartin-Gajardo 2005).

For *Sinningia*, a few examples of individuals intermediate between two parent species were observed in the field (Chautems, pers. obs.), but never formally registered or published. A first case is here documented involving two species of this genus that counts over 60 species of shrubs, sub-shrubs or tuberous herbs occurring in a broad range of geographic regions and growing under distinct ecological conditions (Araújo & Chautems 2012, Chautems 2010). Based on morphological studies of herbarium, living material and field studies, we describe a new hybrid species between *S. lineata* (Hjelmquist 1937: 302) Chautems (1990: 385) and *S. macrostachya* (Lindley 1828: 1202) Chautems (1990: 386), from rocky outcrops inside an *Araucaria* forest in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.