



Plinia delicata (Myrtaceae), a new species from southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Here, we describe and illustrate *Plinia delicata*, a new species from rocky outcrops from the southeastern Brazilian states of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro. The new species is related to *Plinia pseudodichasiantha*, from which it is distinguished mainly through the smaller leaves and longer bracteoles.

Resumo

Plinia delicata, uma nova espécie de afloramentos rochosos dos estados brasileiros de Minas Gerais e Rio de Janeiro, é descrita e ilustrada. Esta espécie distingue-se de *Plinia pseudodichasiantha* pelas folhas menores e bractéolas maiores.

Key words: Taxonomy, Atlantic rainforest, Myrteae, rocky outcrops

Introduction

Plinia Linnaeus is a neotropical genus with about 40 species ranging from the Caribbean to southern South America (Barrie 2004). The Brazilian Atlantic rainforest domain is one of the centers of diversity of the genus, with 32 species, of which 27 are endemic to the biome, some of which are considered critically endangered (Sobral *et al.*, 2013).

Plinia and related genera were traditionally considered, based on similarities of embryo morphology, as related to *Eugenia* Linnaeus, one of the largest American genera of the Myrtaceae. Nevertheless, results from Lucas *et al.* (2007) suggest that *Plinia*, along with the American genera *Myrciaria* O. Berg, *Neomitranthes* Kausel ex D. Legrand and *Siphoneugena* O. Berg belong to a clade unrelated to *Eugenia*; however, Lucas *et al.* (2007) did not discuss the delimitation of these genera which are largely distinguished through the number of ovules per locule (two in *Myrciaria* and *Plinia* vs. several in *Neomitranthes* and *Siphoneugena*) and the persistence of the calyx tube (deciduous in *Myrciaria* and *Siphoneugena* vs. persisting in *Neomitranthes* and *Plinia*). Although presently recognized as useful, these characters may not be consistent and a more detailed approach to this group is clearly needed.

Plinia delicata Antunes, Salimena & Sobral, *sp. nov.*, Fig. 1 A–G

Type:—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Rio Preto, Serra Negra, trilha para o Burro de Ouro, 21° 58'11" S, 43° 53'21" W, 1400 m, 10 Apr. 2007, K. Antunes 248, N.L. Abreu, P.L. Viana, F.S. Souza, N.F.O. Mota, T.E. Almeida, A.M. Teles & B. Nordenstam (holotype CESJ, isotypes HUFSJ, RB, R).

This species is related to *Plinia pseudodichasiantha*, from which it is distinguished through its smaller inflorescences and leaves.