



Clistax bahiensis (Acanthaceae), a new epiphytic species from Bahia, Brazil

SHEILA R. PROFICE & PAULA LEITMAN

Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, Rua Pacheco Leão 915, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 22460-030, Brazil;
E-mail: sprofice@jbrj.gov.br, leitman@gmail.com

Abstract

A new species of Acanthaceae from southern Bahia state, *Clistax bahiensis* Profice & Leitman, is described and illustrated. A comparison with previously described taxa in the genus, *C. brasiliensis* Mart. and *C. speciosus* Nees reveals distinct characteristics from the formers such as dimorphic bracteoles (anterior oblong-lanceolate and posterior lanceolate) and red corolla, beside the remarkable epiphytic habit.

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de Acanthaceae do sul do estado da Bahia, *Clistax bahiensis* Profice & Leitman, é descrita e ilustrada. A nova espécie é comparada com as descritas previamente no gênero *Clistax*, *C. brasiliensis* Mart. e *C. speciosus* Nees para o Brasil. Se distingue das demais espécies do gênero pelas bractéolas dimórficas (anterior oblongo-lanceolada e as posteriores lanceoladas) e corola vermelha, além do notável hábito epifítico.

Key words: *Clistax*, Acanthaceae, epiphyte, Bahia, Brazil

Introduction

Herein is described a new species of *Clistax*, a neotropical genus represented by two Brazilian species, *C. brasiliensis* Mart. and *C. speciosus* Nees. The species was discovered during the fieldwork for the project “Mountainous areas of southern Bahia” carried by the Centro de Pesquisas do Cacau (CEPEC) and The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG).

Within Acanthaceae, the subfamily Acanthoideae *sensu* Scotland *et al.* (1995) and McDade *et al.* (2008) is supported by retinaculate fruits. Scotland & Vollesen (2000) included the genus *Clistax* in subfamily Acanthoideae, tribe Justiceae, based on several morphological features including “Knötchenpollen”, a pollen type characterized by 2 or 3 apertures with trema area traversed by insulae rows described by Lindau (1895).

McDade *et al.* (2000) in a study of phylogenetic relations of Justiceae based on nuclear ribosomal and chloroplast sequences revealed the existence of five distinct lineages: *Pseuderanthemum*, Isoglossinae, *Tetramerium*, Diclipterinae and Justicioids. The lineage Justicioids is paraphyletic forming two different clades: one with species of the Old World and another with species of the New World. This last clade includes all American species of *Justicia* and members of related genera. However, *Clistax* was not included in this analysis and its position in this tribe is still unresolved.

Based on macromorphological characters the genus *Clistax* differ from other members of Justiceae by its large floral bracteoles partially connate at the base and a reduced calyx. Here, a new species of *Clistax* is described, illustrated and compared with the two other taxa of the genus, with an emphasis given to its pollen morphology.