



Nymphaea vanildae (Nymphaeaceae): A new species from the Caatinga in Brazil

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Abstract

Nymphaea vanildae (Nymphaeaceae) is described and illustrated as a new species from the Caatinga region in Brazil, and placed in *Nymphaea* subg. *Hydrocallis*. This species is characterized by having nocturnal flowers, elliptic and delicate leaves, a clear distinction between the perianth and androecium, linear carpellary appendages and four or more series of proliferate pseudanthia, which distinguishes it from all species in the genus.

Key words: Aquatic plants, carpellary appendages, proliferate pseudanthium, water lily

Resumo

Nymphaea vanildae (Nymphaeaceae) é descrita e ilustrada como uma nova espécie do Brasil, do Bioma Caatinga, e incluída em *Nymphaea* subg. *Hydrocallis*. É caracterizada por ter flores noturnas, pelo limbo foliar elíptico e membranáceo; distinção evidente entre o perianto e o androceu, apêndices carpelares lineares e a presença de quatro ou mais séries de pseudanto-proliferantes, o que a distingue de qualquer outra espécie dentro do gênero.

Palavras-chave: Apêndice carpelar, nenúfar, pseudanto-proliferante, planta aquática

Introduction

The genus *Nymphaea* Linnaeus (1753: 510) includes ca. 50 species with a cosmopolitan distribution. This number represents more than half of the species in Nymphaeales, which comprise the Nymphaeaceae, Cabombaceae and Hydatellaceae (Bosch et al. 2008, APG III 2009).

Species of *Nymphaea* are aquatic, perennial plants, with erect or horizontal underground stems, and floating, elliptic to orbicular leaf blades with a sagittate base. The solitary flowers are emergent, with many sepals, petals, stamens and carpels, united or free, and parietal or laminar placentation. Anthesis is diurnal or nocturnal. Fruits are berrylike, developing under water (Caspery 1878, Conard 1905, Wiersema 1987, Lima 2011, Lima et al. 2012).

In Brazil 18 species of *Nymphaea* are currently recognised (Amaral 2010). Nine of these species occur in the Caatinga of the Northeast, and six of them in Bahia (Lima et al. 2012). During fieldwork for a revision of the Brazilian species of *Nymphaea*, a new species was collected in the Caatinga Biome in the southwestern part of Pernambuco State.