



***Senecio hortensiae* (Senecioneae, Asteraceae): a new species from Espírito Santo, Brazil**

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Abstract

A new species of *Senecio* section *Adamantina* is here described as *Senecio hortensiae* (Senecioneae, Asteraceae), an endemic species from Parque Nacional dos Pontões Capixabas, Espírito Santo state, Brazil. This new species is recognised by the sessile leaves densely clustered at the median part of the stem and by the radiate capitula in a terminal lax panicle. It is closely related to *Senecio graciellae* but differs basically by the size and margins of the leaves, capitulescence and number of ray florets. Illustrations, comments, distribution map, and conservation status are provided for the new species. Additionally, a diagnostic key to the species of *Senecio* section *Adamantina* is provided.

Key words: Atlantic Forest, biodiversity, Compositae, *Senecio* section *Adamantina*

Introduction

Senecioneae Cassini (1819: 196) is one of the largest tribes of Asteraceae Berchtold & Presl (1820: 254) with more than 3,000 species in 151 genera and with a worldwide distribution (Nordenstam *et al.* 2009). *Senecio* Linnaeus (1753: 866) is an almost cosmopolitan genus comprising approximately 1,000 species in the strict sense (Nordenstam *et al.* 2009).

Cabrera (1957) provided the most recent taxonomic treatment for the Brazilian species of *Senecio* in the broad sense, encompassing about 128 species. Hind (1993) reported 67 species of *Senecio* for Brazil. However, new species (*e.g.*, Cabrera 1959, Zardini 1979, Robinson 1980, Matzenbacher 1996, Hind 1999, Teles *et al.* 2009, Matzenbacher 2009, Teles & Meireles 2010) and new combinations (*e.g.*, Nordenstam 1978, Jeffrey 1992, Matzenbacher & Baptista 1997, Teles 2010) have been proposed.

Analyzing the papers published after Hind (1993) we estimate that the genus, in the current concept of *Senecio*, is represented in Brazil by about 76 species.

Taxonomic studies on Senecioneae in Brazil led to the discovery of a new species of *Senecio* section *Adamantina* Cabrera (1950: 67) from southeastern Brazil. Therefore, this new species is here described, illustrated and its affinities are discussed. Additionally, we present a diagnostic key to the species of this section.

Taxonomic treatment

Senecio hortensiae A. Teles, *sp. nov.* (Figs 1–2)

Differs from *Senecio graciellae* Cabrera (1957: 221) in its leaves 8.2–10.5 × 1.2–2.1 cm, margins entire, lax capitula and peduncles 8–14 mm long (versus leaves 20–25 × 2.5–3 cm, margins 5–6- dentate, capitula congested and peduncles 2–3 mm long).

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