



A new species of *Hohenbergia* (Bromeliaceae) from Bahia, Brazil

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Abstract

In this paper a new species of *Hohenbergia* from Bahia, Brazil, *H. lativaginata*, is described. Compared with 4 other related species and illustrated.

Key words: Bromelioideae, Caatinga, Neotropics, Semi-arid

Introduction

Hohenbergia Schult.f. (Roemer & Schultes 1830: 1251) harbors about 67 species (Butcher & Gouda cont. upd., Forzza *et al.* cont. upd.) in two subgenera that are distinguished by the presence of mostly caudate ovules and colored petals in *H.* subg. *Hohenbergia* while in *H.* subg. *Wittmackiopsis* Mez in C. DC. (1896: 132) the ovules are obtuse, and the flowers have mostly white petals.

Almost all species of *Hohenbergia* subg. *Hohenbergia* are restricted to Brazil. The only exceptions are *H. stellata* Schult.f. (Roemer & Schultes 1830: 1251), which is widespread, distributed from the Antilles to northeastern Brazil (Leme *et al.* 2010, Smith & Downs 1979) and *H. andina* Betancur (1991: 425) from Colombia. In Brazil, 53 species are recorded, 49 of them occurring in the northeastern region which can be considered the center of endemism of *Hohenbergia* (Forzza *et al.* cont. upd.).

Among the morphological features used to distinguish *Hohenbergia* from the remaining genera in Bromelioideae are the densely congested branches (spikes) of the inflorescences (racemes or spikes) being usually woolly-lepidote, imbricate bracts and an inconspicuous or even absent epigynous tube, which are diagnostic.

Knowledge of the diversity of the Brazilian *Hohenbergia* species is still insufficient and numerous new species have recently been described (e.g., Leme *et al.* 2010) and others are waiting for a taxonomic treatment. Therefore, herein we describe and illustrate a new species of *Hohenbergia* from a semi-arid region in the state of Bahia, Brazil. In addition, comments are presented about its taxonomy, phenology, distribution and habitat, and conservation status.

Taxonomy

Hohenbergia lativaginata J.R. Maciel & Louzada, *sp.nov.* (Fig. 1)

Type:—BRAZIL. Bahia: Ourolândia, caminho da Serra da Babilônia, 25 February 2012, fl., O. Ribeiro & A. Araújo s.n. (holotype: UFP 75193).

Hohenbergia lativaginata is closely related to *H. arcuata* Leme & M. Machado (Leme *et al.* 2010: 41) but differs mainly by its broadly triangular floral bract (versus subtriangular-orbicular to suborbicular), slightly asymmetric sepals (versus sepals strongly asymmetric), shorter flowers (1.4–1.5 cm versus 2–2.1 cm) and appendages inserted at the median portion of the petals (versus appendages inserted at base).

TABLE 1. Complementary morphological characteristics of *Hohenbergia lativaginata* and similar species.

Species	Leaf sheaths	Leaf blade	Floral bract	Primary branches
<i>H. lativaginata</i>	ovate, 8–10 × 5–6.5 cm	40–42 × 1.3–2 cm	broadly triangular	2.1–2.7 cm
<i>H. arcuata</i>	ovate, 20 × 9 cm	40–56 × 2–3 cm	subtriangular-orbicular to suborbicular	4–4.5 cm
<i>H. catingae</i>	oblong, 20 × 12 cm	30–60 × 3–4 cm	broadly ovate	5–15 cm
<i>H. horrida</i>	elliptical, 17–20 × 10–13 cm	20–80 × 3–5 cm	subtriangular to suborbicular	8–10 cm
<i>H. humilis</i>	ovate, 10 × 6–8 cm	30 × 1–2 cm	suborbicular	18 cm

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