



***Baccharis magnifica* (Asteraceae, Astereae): a striking new species endemic to the summits of Serra do Caparaó, southeastern Brazil**

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Abstract

Baccharis magnifica, a new species endemic to the summits of the Serra do Caparaó along the border between Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil, is described. The new species is easily recognized by its shrubby habit, showy green and slightly wine-tinged, long-petiolate leaves with ciliate margins and corymbiform capitulescences. It is morphologically most similar to the allopatric *B. macrophylla*, which inhabits the mountain summits of the southerly Serra da Mantiqueira range. Illustrations, a distribution map, habitat information, and a conservation assessment are also provided for the new species.

Resumo

Baccharis magnifica, uma nova espécie endêmica dos picos da Serra do Caparaó, ao longo da divisa dos estados do Espírito Santo e Minas Gerais, Sudeste do Brasil, é descrita. A nova espécie é facilmente reconhecível pelo hábito arbustivo, folhagem vistosa verde e levemente vinácea, folhas com pecíolos longos e margens ciliadas e capitulescências corimbiformes. Morfologicamente, assemelha-se à espécie alopátrica *B. macrophylla*, que habita os cumes das montanhas da Serra da Mantiqueira meridional. Ilustrações, mapa de distribuição, informações sobre o habitat e estado de conservação são fornecidos para a nova espécie.

Key words: Atlantic rain forest, Compositae, high altitude tropical grasslands

Introduction

Baccharis Linnaeus (1753: 860; Asteraceae: Astereae) comprises between 354 (Müller 2013) and 400 New World species (Bremer 1994) and is broadly characterized by the usually tufted indumentum of the leaves and shoots and the common occurrence of dioecy (Müller 2006). Currently, 175 species of *Baccharis* are recorded for Brazil, with 27 species found in Espírito Santo and 95 species in Minas Gerais states (Heiden & Schneider 2013).

Ongoing taxonomic studies of *Baccharis*, with extensive study of herbaria specimens and fieldwork across the main centers of species diversity for the genus in Brazil, have allowed the recognition of a remarkable undescribed species of *Baccharis* from the summits of Serra do Caparaó. The Serra do Caparaó mountain range is the highest and northernmost of the tropical high altitude grasslands area (campos de altitude) in Brazil (Safford 1999a, 1999b). It is located in the Parque Nacional do Caparaó, which encompasses the highest mountain of eastern South America (Pico da Bandeira) and its surroundings. The new species found in this area is described below, is illustrated and its affinities, systematic position and geographic distribution are discussed.

styles (1.6–1.8 mm long), whereas *B. macrophylla* presents shorter petioles (0.3–0.9 cm long), coriaceous leaf blades with attenuate base and revolute, non-ciliate margins with 1–5 subapical teeth in the upper 1/3, larger female capitula (5–6 mm long), and longer female corollas (2–2.6 mm long) and styles (2.5–3.5 mm long).

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