



Nomenclatural and taxonomic novelties in Eriocaulaceae from the states of Rio de Janeiro and Santa Catarina, Brazil

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Abstract

Paepalanthus and *Syngonanthus* are the largest genera of the Neotropical Eriocaulaceae, and both present many taxonomic and nomenclatural problems. Based on field observations and detailed analysis of type collections, we suggest nomenclatural and taxonomic changes to solve the problems regarding six species occurring in Rio de Janeiro and Santa Catarina. We propose species status (i.e., *P. kleinii*) for *Paepalanthus leiseringii* var. *kleinii* and five taxa are newly synonymized: *P. bradei* (= *P. macaheensis*), *P. gounelleanus* (= *P. pseudotortilis*), *P. tortilis* var. *glaberrimus* (= *P. tortilis*), *S. caulescens* var. *angustifolius* (= *S. caulescens*), and *S. caulescens* var. *proliferus* (= *S. caulescens*). We provide comments on morphology and citation of type collections for all taxa. For *Paepalanthus leiseringii* var. *kleinii* we also provide illustrations and a protologue.

Key words: *Paepalanthus*, Nomenclature, *Syngonanthus*, Taxonomy

Introduction

Eriocaulaceae is easily distinguished among the monocots by its very small unisexual flowers arranged in dense capitula (Koernicke 1863, Ruhland 1903, Giuliatti & Hensold 1990, Stützel 1998). The family comprises 10 genera and ca. 1100 species distributed throughout the tropics (Ruhland 1903, Giuliatti & Hensold 1990, Stützel 1998, Sano 2004, Andrade *et al.* 2010, Parra *et al.* 2010, Giuliatti *et al.* 2012). In South America, the most diverse genera are *Paepalanthus* Martius (1843: 28) *nom. cons.* and *Syngonanthus* Ruhland (1900: 487), which include ca. 400 and 130 species, respectively. Both genera are widely distributed in the Neotropics, with few species occurring in Africa. Associated with their wide geographic distributions, these genera exhibit broad morphological variation and, thus, many taxonomic problems (Ruhland 1903, Giuliatti & Hensold 1990, Stützel 1998, Sano 2004, Parra *et al.* 2010).

After the two comprehensive taxonomic revisions prepared by Koernicke (1863) and Ruhland (1903), advances in the taxonomy of Brazilian Eriocaulaceae have been essentially restricted to the description of hundreds of new taxa by Silveira (1908, 1928) and Moldenke (e.g., 1941, 1958, 1960, 1973, 1977). In the last few decades, a series of revisionary studies was accomplished, solving some of the taxonomic inconsistencies (e.g., synonyms and typification issues) in particular groups of *Paepalanthus* and *Syngonanthus* (Hensold 1988, Tissot-Squalli 1997, Sano 2004, Parra *et al.* 2010, Trovó & Sano 2010a). Both genera are large and the nomenclatural issues are too numerous to be tackled in a single revisionary effort. Many taxonomic and nomenclatural changes have also been published as a result of floristic efforts (Giuliatti & Parra 1994, Parra & Giuliatti 1997, Trovó & Sano 2010b).

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