



## Two New Species of *Neomarica* Sprague (Trimezieae-Iridaceae) from Bahia State, Northeastern Brazil

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### Abstract

*Neomarica eburnea* and *N. floscella*, two new species of Iridaceae (Trimezieae) from Bahia state (Northeastern Brazil) are here described. Illustrations, diagnostic comparisons with morphologically similar species and an identification key for the species of the genus occurring in Bahia state are presented.

### Resumo

*Neomarica eburnea* e *N. floscella*, duas novas espécies de Iridaceae (Trimezieae) para o Estado da Bahia (Nordeste do Brasil) são aqui descritas. São apresentadas ilustrações, comparações diagnósticas com espécies morfológicamente semelhantes e uma chave de identificação para as espécies do gênero ocorrentes no estado da Bahia.

**Key words:** *Neomarica*, *Trimezieae*, Iridoideae, Iridaceae, Flora of Bahia

### Introduction

With cosmopolitan distribution, Iridaceae is one of the largest families of the order Asparagales, with ca. 65–75 genera and 2,028 species (Goldblatt *et al.* 2008). The family has its greatest diversity and species richness in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in southern Africa (ca. 1,000 species) (Goldblatt *et al.* 1998, Goldblatt & Manning 2008). The American genus *Neomarica* Sprague (1928: 280) is the largest of the tribe *Trimezieae* Ravenna (1981: 12) (Iridoideae) which currently also includes *Trimezia* Salisbury ex Herbert (1844: 88) (ca. 18 species), *Pseudotrimezia* Foster (1945: 8) (17 species) and the monotypic *Pseudiris* Chukr & Gil (2008: 725) (Gil *et al.* 2008, Lovo *et al.* 2012). *Neomarica* currently includes 24 species of perennial herbs, distributed from the state of Ceará to the state of Rio Grande do Sul, with a single species being also native in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (A. Gil and collaborators, unpublished data). The genus can be recognized by a compressed (leaf-like) flowering stem (peduncle + first bract) and a creeping or erect rhizome not covered by persistent fibrous tunic-like leaf bases, characteristic for other genera of Trimezieae (Gil *et al.* 2008).

During the preparation of a taxonomic revision of *Neomarica*, two new species of *Neomarica* endemic to Bahia state were discovered. Besides the morphological characters, the position of these new species in *Neomarica* is also supported by chromosome number and DNA sequence data (A. Gil and collaborators, in preparation).

In Bahia state (northeastern Brazil) besides the two new species described here, four other *Neomarica* species occur, all growing in the understory of the Atlantic Forest, *N. brachypus* (Baker 1876: 138) Sprague (1928: 280), *N. portosecurensis* (Ravenna 1988: 7) Chukr (2001: 379), *N. sabinei* (Lindley 1826: 75) Chukr (2001: 379) and *N. unca* (Ravenna 2003: 39) Gil (2009: 99).

- Large herbs, 80–200 cm tall; leaves matt green, never shiny; flowers 8–10 cm in diameter; ovary 1–1.3 cm long; outer tepals with apical two-thirds predominantly purple, violet, blue, bluish (sometimes speckled with violet spots), pale lilac spots; reproductive column 2–2.3 cm long ..... *Neomarica sabinei*

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