



Begonia obdeltata (Begoniaceae), a new species from northeast Brazil

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Abstract

Begonia obdeltata, a new species of Begoniaceae from northeast Brazil, is described and illustrated. It is similar to *B. grisea* and *B. petasitifolia*, with which it is compared. Diagnostic characters, geographic distribution and conservation status of the new species are presented.

Key words: Atlantic rain forest, conservation, taxonomy

Resumo

Begonia obdeltata, uma nova espécie de Begoniaceae do Nordeste do Brasil, é descrita e ilustrada. Ela assemelha-se a *B. grisea* e *B. petasitifolia*, com as quais é comparada. Os caracteres diagnósticos, a distribuição geográfica e o estado de conservação da nova espécie são apresentados.

Palavras-chave: Conservação, Mata Atlântica, taxonomia

Introduction

The family Begoniaceae consists of two genera: *Begonia* Linnaeus (1753: 1056), with approximately 1,500 species and pantropical distribution, and the monospecific *Hillebrandia* Oliver (1866: 361), from the Hawaiian Islands (Neale *et al.* 2006, Wilde 2011). In Brazil, 208 species of *Begonia* are recognized (Jacques 2013), occurring in all vegetation types except mangroves (Jacques & Mamede 2005), with the greatest diversity in the Atlantic rain forest (Jacques & Mamede 2004). Thirty-six species of *Begonia* are recorded in northeast Brazil and 20 are endemic to the region, with most of the diversity in the State of Bahia (Jacques 2013). They are herbs, shrubs or lianas, often characterized by fleshy stems, large stipules, usually asymmetrical leaves, unisexual flowers with petal-like perianth segments, numerous centripetal stamens, and seeds with a collar of cells below an operculum (Clement *et al.* 2004).

During the taxonomic treatment of *Begonia* for the Flora of Bahia, a new species of *Begonia* similar to *B. grisea* Candolle (1859: 138) was recognized. Field surveys and herbarium specimens revealed that its geographic distribution also includes the State of Pernambuco. This species is here described and illustrated as *B. obdeltata*.

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