



## A new species of *Microlicia* and a checklist of Melastomataceae from the mountains of Capitólio municipality, Minas Gerais, Brazil

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### Abstract

*Microlicia furnensis*, a new endemic species from *campos rupestres* of Capitólio municipality, Minas Gerais state, Brazil, is described and illustrated. The new species is characterized by its cream petals with pale pink blotches at the apex, sessile or subsessile leaves and golden glandular trichomes and short pale trichomes covering the leaves, pedicels, hypanthium and the calyx lobes. It resembles *M. confertiflora*, *M. isophylla* and *M. flava*, the latter also occurring in Capitólio, Minas Gerais state. A list of species of Melastomataceae from the mountains of Capitólio municipality is also provided.

**Key words:** *campos rupestres*, endemic, Furnas, Microlicieae, Serra da Canastra

### Resumo

*Microlicia furnensis*, uma nova espécie endêmica dos campos rupestres das serras do município de Capitólio, Minas Gerais, é descrita e ilustrada. A nova espécie caracteriza-se por apresentar pétalas creme com manchas rósea-claro no ápice, folhas sésseis ou subsésseis e tricomas glandulares dourados e tricomas setosos, curtos recobrimdo as folhas, pedicelo, hipanto e lacínias do cálice. Assemelha-se a *M. confertiflora*, *M. isophylla* e *M. flava*, esta última também com ocorrência em Capitólio, estado de Minas Gerais. Uma listagem das espécies de Melastomataceae das serras do município de Capitólio é fornecida.

### Introduction

The Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais, covering an area of 200,000 hectares (Fig. 1), was created to preserve the sources of the rio São Francisco, one of the most important river basins in Brazil, as well as the flora and fauna characteristic of open grasslands (*campo limpo*), savannas (*cerrado*) and highland rocky fields (*campo rupestre*) vegetation in the southeastern region of the country (IBDF 1981). The region is part of the “Complexo Cristalino”, also known as the Southern Plateau of Minas Gerais (Moreira & Camelier 1977), and has a distinct flora of Melastomataceae from the Espinhaço Range (Romero & Martins 2002; Silva & Romero 2008).

The park is located between 46°15' and 47°00'W and between 20°00' and 20°30'S (IBAMA 2005) and only an area with 71,525 hectares, known as Chapadão da Canastra, is officially protected by law. The remaining area known as Chapadão da Babilônia, with c. 130,000 hectares, has not been legally regularized yet, and is currently unprotected. The mountain ranges in the municipality of Capitólio make up part of this area and, despite their rich and diverse vegetation, have been intensively altered by agro-pastoral and mining activities in the last 50 years. These mountain ranges are included in the Cerrado biome comprising forest, savanna and grassland physiognomies, where the most common formations are the *campo rupestre* and *campo limpo*.

Floristic studies carried out over the last 15 years in this part of Minas Gerais state (Nakajima & Semir 2001; Romero & Martins 2002; Farinaccio & Mello-Silva 2004; Scudler 2004; Pontes & Mello-Silva 2005; Filardi et al. 2007; Carvalho-Silva & Guimarães 2009; Hemsing & Romero 2010; Morokawa et al. 2013), suggest that the region has a high number of endemic species from different families of Angiosperms (Romero & Goldenberg 1999; Romero & Nakajima 1999; Assis 2002; Romero & Martins 2003; Romero & Guimarães 2005; Cavalcanti 2007; Batista & Bianchetti 2010; Chautems et al. 2010; Feres 2010; Dutra & Garcia 2013; Farinaccio 2013). Melastomataceae is considered one of the most representative families in *campos rupestres* of this region with more than a hundred species

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