



***Porophyllum spathulatum* (Asteraceae: Tageteae), a new species from the southern Brazilian coast**

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Abstract

Porophyllum spathulatum is described and illustrated. The new species is distinguished by its decumbent habit, spatulate leaves and large heads bearing pale yellow florets. According to the collector's information given on the labels, the plant was successfully recollected and is known to occur only in Balneário Hermenegildo, Santa Vitória do Palmar, Rio Grande do Sul, southernmost Brazil. Additionally, conservation status and ecological information about the new species are provided.

Resumo

Porophyllum spathulatum é descrito e ilustrado. A nova espécie distingue-se pelo hábito decumbente, folhas espatuladas e capítulos grandes com flores amarelo-claras. Baseado em dados de coleta constantes em etiquetas de exsicatas, a planta foi recoletada e sabe-se que ocorre apenas no Balneário Hermenegildo, Santa Vitória do Palmar, Rio Grande do Sul, extremo sul do Brasil. São fornecidos o estado de conservação e informações ecológicas sobre a nova espécie.

Key words: Compositae, dune vegetation, endemism, Heliantheae Alliance

Introduction

Porophyllum Guettard (1754: 377) belongs to tribe Tageteae Cassini (1819: 162), which is part of the “Heliantheae Alliance” (Panero 2007), a monophyletic group of 13 related tribes of Asteraceae. The genus has its center of distribution and probably center of origin in Mexico or Central America and comprises about 28 species distributed from southwestern USA to northern Argentina (Johnson 1969), in tropical and subtropical areas, in dry grasslands, vegetation dominated by subshrubs or shrubs, on rocky or sandy soils. *Porophyllum* is characterized by the presence of discoid heads, involucre uniseriate of free (or almost free) phyllaries numbering 5–9, pappus of bristles and presence of translucent oil glands in leaves and phyllaries, which confers to these plants a strong and characteristic scent. Johnson (1969), in his monograph of *Porophyllum*, divided the genus in two sections: *P. sect. Hunteria* Candolle (1836: 649), restricted to North America and occurring from southwestern USA to arid and semi-arid regions of northern and central Mexico, and *P. sect. Porophyllum*, widespread from North to South America in dry or mesic areas.

During the taxonomic revision of the genus *Porophyllum* in southern Brazil, we concluded that we were in face of a new species represented by two herbarium sheets that did not match any previously known species. Further field work led to the discovery of a small population, in the same region where the available specimens were collected before. Morphological studies of the material available allowed the description of the new species *Porophyllum spathulatum*, and additional information about the new species is provided.

Taxonomic treatment

Porophyllum spathulatum C.R.Carneiro & A.A.Schneid., *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1 and 2)

Inter species generis Porophylli habitu decumbenti, foliis spathulatis, capitulis ultra 50-floris, corolla albo-lutea, pedunculis apice dilatatis ab aliis recedens.

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