



The rediscovery, after one century, of *Vriesea maculosa* (Bromeliaceae, Tillandsioideae) with an amendment to its description

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Abstract

Vriesea maculosa Mez is a poorly known species with no further recordings since the type collection 101 years ago. As a result of our research about *Vriesea* as part of the study of the Flora of Bahia, Brazil, new specimens and data are now available for this species justifying an amendment to its description. We provide a complete taxonomical description, including floral details analyzed in freshly collected material. We propose to treat *V. fabioi* as a new synonym of *V. maculosa*, and expand on the distribution and phenotypic variation found between populations. The species is illustrated in detail, using line drawings as well as photographs of different populations in the field.

Key words: Chapada Diamantina, epiphytes, lithophytes, Poales, Tillandsioideae, *Vrieseae*

Introduction

The Pico das Almas is one the highest peaks belonging to the Espinhaço mountain range, reaching 1958 m elevation. As a whole, the Espinhaço range, between the states of Bahia and Minas Gerais, is an important area for *Vriesea* (Lindley 1843: 29) species diversification (Versieux *et al.* 2008), found growing either inside forested and humid valleys as epiphytes or terrestrials, or as lithophytes on rocky outcrops (Versieux & Wendt 2006, Versieux 2008, Versieux & Machado 2012; Moura & Costa 2014).

The Pico das Almas is located in the municipality of Rio de Contas, along the southern portion of Chapada Diamantina, Bahia, Northeastern Brazil (Stannard 1995). The flora of this region has been thoroughly investigated and the Bromeliaceae occurring there encompasses 7 genera and 14 species (Mayo *et al.* 1995; Stannard 1995). At Pico das Almas, *Vriesea* is represented by four species, including the new record presented here. In the systematic treatment for this genus in the Flora of Pico das Almas (Mayo *et al.* 1995), one specimen housed in K and SPF herbaria (Harley *et al.* 24467) is listed under *Vriesea friburgensis* Mez (1894: 537). Nevertheless, Mayo *et al.* (1995) clearly stated that new collections were necessary in order to establish the correct identification for this specimen, since it presents ovoid floral bracts and is somewhat similar to *Vriesea friburgensis* var. *paludosa* (Smith 1943: 119) Smith (1952: 68) and *Vriesea schwackeana* Mez (1894: 590). After collecting in the same area as indicated by Harley *et al.* 24467 it was possible to conclude that the specimens obtained in this area correspond to *Vriesea maculosa* Mez (1913: 418), a taxon that was described around one century ago and has not been found since that time.

The holotype of *Vriesea maculosa* was collected by the German botanist Ernest Heinrich Georg Ule and is deposited in the Berlin Herbarium (B). Ule explored the Serra do Sincorá, which belongs to the Chapada Diamantina (the northern limit of Espinhaço mountain range), and include mountains along the eastern and central borders of the Chapada Diamantina.

Nowadays, the Sincorá mountain range encompasses areas of the following municipalities: Lençóis, Palmeiras, Andaraí, Mucugê, Barra da Estiva, beside the villages of Caeté Açu, Guiné, Igatu, Cascavel, Mundo Novo, and Sincorá Velho (Pedreira 2002). Ule described several new species and two new genera of Bromeliaceae after his expeditions in Bahia (Ule 1909). *Vriesea maculosa*, however, was described by Mez (1913) and after that was not recollected in

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