



## A new species of *Hypericum* (Hypericaceae) from Southern Brazil

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### Abstract

In this article we describe and illustrate *Hypericum austrobrasiliense*, a new species endemic to the grasslands of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest biome and restricted to Southern Brazil. This distinctive species is classified as Endangered based on IUCN Red List criteria.

**Keywords:** Atlantic Forest biome, *Hypericum austrobrasiliense*, taxonomy, threatened species

### Introduction

*Hypericum* Linnaeus (1753: 783) is the largest genus of the family Hypericaceae, embracing ca. 500 species distributed in almost the entire world (Robson 2012). Although it is predominantly distributed in the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere (Meseguer *et al.* 2013), *Hypericum* has a wide diversity of species also in South America. Many of these species are restricted to montane tropical regions such as the Andes and subtropical regions such as southern Brazil. Among the 23 species recorded in Brazil, eight are restricted to its territory, whereas the remaining 15 were also encountered in other South American countries.

The new species was found in field expeditions during the taxonomic study of the genus *Hypericum* in Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil. Subsequently, we found additional specimens while visiting the herbaria HAS, ICN, PACA and PEL. This study was part of a master thesis and, for this reason, many data are obtained from field observations.

### Taxonomy

*Hypericum austrobrasiliense* Vog.Ely, Boldrini & Bordignon, *sp. nov.* (Figures 1 and 3)

*H. polyanthemo affinis*, sed ab eo foliis base lateribus parallelis, nunquam subcordatis, sepalis aequalibus a subaequalibus, haud revolutis, staminibus deciduis, inflorescentia intense vinacea, imprimis alabastro differt.

Type:—BRAZIL. Rio Grande do Sul: Bom Jesus, margem da BR-285, 1,080 m, 28°39'29.8"S, 50°24'07.6"W (WGS-84), 12 December 2007, S. Bordignon & G.L. von Poser 3454 (holotype ICN!, isotypes K!, MBM!).

Rhizomatous subshrub, 0.1 to 0.4 m tall, erect. Stem reddish-brown, glabrous, single or branched from the base, eventually naked below, young branches 2–4-carinated generally becoming cylindrical towards the base, cortex exfoliating, internodes 1–37 mm long. Leaves opposite-decussate, sessile, free, lamina 6–23 × 1–1.5 mm, narrowly oblong to linear, revolute, concolor to slightly discolor, chartaceous; apex obtuse, margin entire, base parallel-sided; midrib prominent and decurrent on the stem, rarely with secondary veins ascending laterally, tertiary reticulum absent; punctate glands sparsely distributed in the lamina, not prominent and visible only beneath. Inflorescence 3–18-flowered, grouped in dichasial and monochasial cymes, lateral branches usually containing a single flower or, less often, forming dichasial and/or monochasial cymes; bracts and bracteoles 3–6 × 1–2 mm, narrowly triangulate, apex subulate,

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