



Gaya xiquexiquensis (Malvaceae, Malvoideae), a new species from Bahia state, Brazil

CÁTIA TAKEUCHI¹ & GERLENI LOPES ESTEVES²

¹Instituto de Botânica postgraduate program, Secretaria do Meio Ambiente, Cx. Postal 3005, 01061-970, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. Email: catiatak@gmail.com

²Instituto de Botânica, Secretaria do Meio Ambiente, Cx. Postal 3005, 01061-970, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. Email: gerleniibot@yahoo.com.br

Abstract

Gaya xiquexiquensis is a new species from the state of Bahia, Brazil. This species is known only from the municipality of Xique-Xique, growing in the Caatinga biome of the Brazilian semi-arid region. *Gaya xiquexiquensis* is morphologically similar to *Gaya aurea* A. St.-Hil. We here in present its morphological description, illustrations, as well as ecological data and conservation status.

Key words: Caatinga biome, northeastern Brazil, taxonomy, Xique-Xique

Introduction

Gaya Kunth is a genus in Malvaceae (Malvoideae: Malveae) characterized mainly by having somewhat inflated and pendulous schizocarpic fruits, uniovulate carpels and a unique endoglossum (Hochreutiner 1917), which is a protusion into the mericarp that encircles the solitary seed and is dispersed with the mericarp (Fryxell 1988, 1997). In *Gaya*, this structure is sometimes vestigial, and is absent in *Gaya monosperma* (Schum.) Krapov. and *G. meridensis* Krapov. (Fryxell 1988, 1997; Krapovickas 1996).

The genus comprises 39 Neotropical species, with the greatest diversity in Brazil (13) and Peru (8). The eight species endemic to Brazil (Esteves 2014) are mainly distributed in the northeastern and southeastern regions. Most Brazilian *Gaya* species occur in the Caatinga and Cerrado, generally in disturbed areas.

As part of an ongoing taxonomic and phylogenetic study of *Gaya* in Brazil by the first author, material not conforming to any currently described species was discovered. Based on morphological studies of dried and living specimens from herbaria, along with living material in the field, we describe and illustrate a new species from Xique-Xique municipality (Bahia), which grows in the Caatinga biome.

Taxonomy

Gaya xiquexiquensis C. Takeuchi & G. L. Esteves, *sp. nov.*

Type:—BRAZIL. Bahia: Município de Xique-Xique, Lagoa Itaparica, 24 March 2014, C. Takeuchi 144 (holotype SP, isotype HUEFS). Figs. 1A–G, 2A–G

Affinis *Gaya aurea* A. Saint Hil. indumento velutino trichomabitus stellatis et glandularis, laminis foliaribus ovatis ad oblongas et calyce nervis centralibus prominentibus munitis, sed laminis apicibus generaliter obtusis ad rotundatos, fructibus 10–13 mericarpis, endoglossum glabrum et vestigiali differt.

Subshrubs 0.4–2.5 m tall. Plants with yellowish indumentum, the trichomes stellate, usually glandular, branches velutinous. Stipules 3 mm long, filiform; petioles 0.3–1 cm long; leaf blades 1.2–3 × 0.3–2.1 cm, discolorous, chartaceous, entire, lanceolate, ovate to oblong, base cordate, apex obtuse, rounded or acute, margin serrate, abaxial