



Passiflora echinasteris: a new species of subgenus *Passiflora*, series *Serratifoliae* (Passifloraceae) from the Brazilian Amazon

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Abstract

Passiflora echinasteris from a secondary vegetation area on the Great Curve of the Xingu River, in the Brazilian Amazon, is newly described. It belongs to the series *Serratifoliae* with three other Brazilian species. The new species is illustrated and its affinities with related species are discussed, and a key to the Brazilian species of the series is provided.

Key words: Brazilian Amazon, Belo Monte, Passion flower, Xingu River

Introduction

Passiflora Linnaeus (1753: 955) is a genus that could be easily used to demonstrate the need of taxonomic studies for several further groups of plants in the Amazon. As a result of only a few isolated taxonomic studies in the Brazilian Amazon, the number of new species of *Passiflora* recently increased as showed by Koch *et al.* (2013, 2014), as well as the register of new records.

During the activities of the project “Survey and Scientific exploration of the Flora of the UHE Belo Monte” in the Xingu region, several individuals of a *Passiflora* of the series *Serratifoliae* Killip ex Cervi (1997: 30) were found. The specimens morphologically resemble *P. malacophylla* Masters (1872: 563), but proved to belong to a new species. The aim of this paper is to describe this new species of *Passiflora* from the Brazilian Amazon.

Material and methods

The new species was collected in two secondary vegetation areas at the river shore, which were probably originally covered by alluvial tropical rainforest, in Vitória do Xingu municipality, situated on the Great Curve of the Xingu River, Pará State, Brazil.

The areas of collection present latosol yellowish-red with clayey-sandy texture (Vieira 1971), 100–120 m elevation. The climate is tropical humid, classified as type Am, rainfall of ca. 2.289 mm per year, and with average temperature of 26° C (Sousa-Júnior *et al.* 2006).

The botanical material was prepared according to Fidalgo & Bononi (1984). The description and illustrations were based on fertile material. The descriptive terminology was based on Killip (1938), Radford *et al.* (1974), Cervi (1997), and Ulmer & MacDougal (2004). The type specimens of the new species were deposited in MG, IAN, INPA, RB, SP, and UEC.