



## Two new and endangered species of *Syngonanthus* (Eriocaulaceae) from Chapada dos Veadeiros, Goiás, Brazil

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### Abstract

We describe and illustrate two new species of *Syngonanthus* from Chapada dos Veadeiros (Central highlands of Brazil), an area known for its high number of endemic and threatened species, such as those described here. These species have a restricted distribution and inhabit critical areas. *Syngonanthus incurvifolius* has not been collected since 1994 and is critically endangered; *Syngonanthus vittatus* is known only from a small somewhat disturbed area, on private property, and is endangered. Evaluation of threatened status was provided by CNCFlora, the IUCN Red List Authority in Brazil.

**Key words:** Brazil, Cerrado, Conservation, Everlasting plants, Monocotyledons, new species, Taxonomy

### Resumo

Duas novas espécies de *Syngonanthus* são descritas para a Chapada dos Veadeiros, na região do Brasil Central. Conhecida pela grande quantidade de endemismos, esta área abriga muitas espécies ameaçadas como as descritas aqui. Não há registro de coleta para *Syngonanthus incurvifolius* desde 1994, que é criticamente ameaçada de extinção; *Syngonanthus vittatus* é uma espécie conhecida apenas para pequenas áreas em propriedades particulares e está ameaçada. A avaliação do estado de ameaça foi provida pelo CNCFlora, a autoridade da Lista Vermelha da IUCN no Brasil.

**Palavras chave:** Brasil, Cerrado, Conservação, Monocotiledôneas, espécies novas, Sempre-vivas, Taxonomia

### Introduction

*Syngonanthus* Ruhland (1900: 487) is characterized by pistillate flowers with petals fused in the middle and free at the base and apex, a character also attributed to *Mesanthemum* Körn. (1856:572) and *Comanthera* L.B.Sm. (1937:38) *emend.* Parra *et al.* (2010:1136), a genus recently reestablished and recircumscribed based on molecular and morphological data (Giulietti *et al.* 2000; Andrade *et al.* 2010; Echternacht *et al.* 2014; Echternacht *et al.* 2015). The features that distinguish *Syngonanthus* from *Comanthera* are petals shorter than sepals in pistillate flowers (*vs.* pistillate flowers with sepals shorter than petals), petals fused in the distal part with short lobes (*vs.* fused in a narrow region leaving long free apices), seed surface reticulate (*vs.* rough) (Giulietti *et al.* 2012, Echternacht *et al.* 2014) and predominance of flavonoids as 6-hydroxyluteoline derivatives (*vs.* C-glucosides) (Ricci *et al.* 1996). *Syngonanthus* contains approximately 110 species, distributed in Africa and the Neotropics. Species diversity is concentrated in the mountains of the Espinhaço Range, in Minas Gerais and Bahia States; in Chapada dos Veadeiros, in Goiás State; and in the Amazonian savannas (Echternacht 2012), where micro-endemic species are common, some of them restricted to a few mountaintops. However, some species are widespread, accounting in large part for the distribution of the genus from southern South America to northern Central America. In Brazil, the genus is well represented in open areas, especially on sandy streambanks, grasslands and rock outcrops.