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A new species of *Anthurium* Schott (Araceae) in a seasonal semideciduous forest in Espírito Santo State, Brazil

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Abstract

The state of Espírito Santo is located in Southeastern Brazil and occupies 45,597 km² within the Atlantic Forest domain. The flora of the state is still in progress, and families such as the Araceae represent groups that have not yet been representatively sampled. Sampling efforts in the Southern areas of the state revealed the existence of a new species of *Anthurium*, related to *A. cleistanthum, A. truncatum* and *A. molle*. Here, we describe and illustrate this species and present a comparative analysis with the most similar species. To date, the species is known only from the type locality, occurring in forests that cover limestone outcrops.

Key words: Atlantic Rain Forest, conservation, fragmentation, flora

Introduction

The Atlantic Forest is composed of different forest types, which are determined by environmental climatic variation over different latitudinal gradients (IBGE 2012). One of them is the seasonal semideciduous forest, which responds to a seasonal climate with a semideciduous foliage (Veloso *et al.* 1991). This forest type is represented today in Espírito Santo state by a few remaining fragments (Assis 2007). In the southern region, the most representative example comprises the Floresta Nacional Pacotuba and the Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural Cafundó. Apart from these two conservation units, there are hundreds of forest fragments smaller than 100 ha in particular areas, known as legal reserves of permanent preservation (SOS Mata Atlântica & INPE 2014). However, these fragments are under different stages of regeneration and represent historical uses for pastures and agricultural development (IPEMA 2005).

Regions with steep slopes comprise important sources of diversity by representing part of the original vegetation that once constituted the seasonal semideciduous forest (IPEMA 2005). Typical components of these regions are *Anthurium* Schott (1829: 828) species, belonging to the most diverse genus of the Araceae family with about 900 species (Boyce & Croat 2012). Species of *Anthurium* occur in various environments such as forests, wetlands and rocky areas (Coelho *et al.* 2009). Although still poorly studied in Espírito Santo state, preliminary studies suggest a high rate of endemism for the genus (Coelho *et al.* 2014). This is a general pattern shared by several other taxa, which together account for 552 species endemic to the state (Lista de Espécies da Flora do Brasil 2014).

Several new species of the Araceae have been recognized and described in the last 10 years for Espírito Santo state (Gonçalves 2005, Coelho 2010a, Sakuragui 2012, Calazans & Sakuragui 2013). Surveys for the family were conducted at Reserva Natural Vale in Linhares (Coelho 2010b) and in Southern Restinga vegetation (Valadares *et al.* 2010). Apart from revealing the richness in different latitudinal bands in the state, these studies highlighted the lack of information, as well as the urgent need for intensive sampling throughout the territorial area of the state.

As a result of the sampling effort regarding the "Flora do Estado do Espírito Santo" project, we found a new species of *Anthurium* in the southern region, in the municipality of Cachoeiro de Itapemirim. Here, we describe this new species with comments on its delimitation, ecology, distribution and conservation.

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