



Pombalia barbata, a new species of Violaceae endemic to the Brazilian Caatinga

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Abstract

A new species of *Pombalia* Vand. (Violaceae) is described and illustrated. *Pombalia barbata* Paula-Souza is endemic to caatingas from Ceará to northern Minas Gerais states in Brazil, and is distinguished from other species of the genus by its bearded style. Further distinctive features and comments about its relationships with morphologically related species *P. attenuata* and *P. communis* are provided, as well as discussions on geographical distribution.

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Pombalia* Vand. (Violaceae) é descrita e ilustrada. *Pombalia barbata* Paula-Souza é endêmica de caatingas desde o Ceará ao norte de Minas Gerais no Brasil, e é distinta das demais espécies do gênero por seu estilete barbado. Características diagnósticas adicionais e comentários sobre suas relações com as espécies morfologicamente próximas *P. attenuata* e *P. communis* são fornecidos, além de discussões sobre distribuição geográfica.

Introduction

In the course of preparing an account of the Brazilian species of *Hybanthus* Jacq. (Violaceae) (Souza 2002), several new taxa were detected, many of them endemic to the Caatinga (Paula-Souza & Souza 2003a, 2003b). The Caatinga is a vegetation exclusive of the Brazilian territory, which covers a large area comprising a mosaic of scrub vegetation and patches of dry forests, a semiarid region that occupies most of the northeast part of the country (Santos *et al.* 2011, Albuquerque *et al.* 2012). It is a Biome with high biodiversity and levels of endemisms (Prado 2003) and the existence of so many new taxa within the Violaceae only reinforces the singularity and the lack of studies in this very threatened area of Brazil.

As a result of recent molecular studies (Wahlert *et al.* 2014), most of the Brazilian species of *Hybanthus* were segregated in the distinct genus *Pombalia* (Paula-Souza & Ballard 2014), a group that comprises 41 species in the New World, 20 of which are found in Brazil. *Pombalia barbata*, a new species endemic to the Caatinga from Ceará to Minas Gerais states, is here described and illustrated.

Material and methods

This work is a result of a larger study of Neotropical Violaceae, which was based on consults to pertinent literature, field observations of living specimens and consults to several herbaria of the Americas and Europe (acronyms according to Thiers 2014): A, ALCB, B, BHCB, BM, CEN, BHO, BR, CEPEC, CESJ, COR, CTES, CUVC, CVRD, E, ESA, F, FUEL, G, GFJP, GH, GUA, H, HAS, HB, HBG, HEPH, HMS, HRB, HRCB, HUA, HUCS, HUEFS, IAC, IAN, IBGE, ICN, INPA, IPA, K, LP, M, MAC, MBM, MBML, MEXU, MG, MO, NY, OUPR, P, PACA, PEL, R, RB, SMDB, SI, SP, SPF, SPSF, U, UB, UEC, UFG, ULM, UPCB, US, VIES, W, WU, XAL.

Area of occupancy (AOO) and extent of occurrence (EOO) were obtained with the software GeoCAT using the IUCN default cell width of 2km (Bachman *et al.* 2011), and the species' conservation status was then evaluated according to IUCN (2012).