



Priogymnanthus saxicolus (Oleaceae), a new species from Minas Gerais, Brazil

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Abstract

Priogymnanthus saxicolus Lombardi, a new species of Oleaceae, is described and illustrated. It is distinguished by the unique combination of persistently villose abaxial leaf surface, short congested inflorescences, and nearly sessile flowers, which do not match the characteristics of the other two species of *Priogymnanthus*.

Resumo

Priogymnanthus saxicolus Lombardi, uma nova espécie de Oleaceae, é descrita e ilustrada. Esta espécie é distinta pela combinação única de folhas persistentemente vilosas na face abaxial, inflorescências curtas e congestionadas, e flores praticamente sésseis, características que não são encontradas nas outras duas espécies descritas de *Priogymnanthus*.

Priogymnanthus P.S.Green (1994: 280) is a genus described with two species endemic to South America (Green 1994): *P. apertus* (B.Stühl 1991: 54) P.S.Green and *P. hasslerianus* (Chodat in Chodat & Hassler 1903: 914) P.S.Green. The genus is distinguished from *Chionanthus* Linnaeus (1753: 8), by the absence of calyx, the presence of an early deciduous corolla, and four stamens (occasionally present in few species in several other genera in the family, which typically has two stamens), and from *Forestiera* Poirlet (1812: 664) by the presence of corolla and by hermaphrodite flowers, which are rare in the latter genus.

The new species presented here was first collected by Pablo Hendrigo Alves de Melo during excursions for his Master degree study. However I was not able to examine Melo's original collections because these were lost or are misplaced at the BHCN herbarium. The type specimen was collected by the author at the same place and the species is described and illustrated here. All measurements from the reproductive structures were taken from young inflorescences with the terminal flower apparently in early anthesis.

Herbarium material and fixed samples, preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol, were studied using classical taxonomical methods. The fixed flowers were dissected and measured under a binocular microscope. Inflorescence and flower photographs were taken with a Leica IC80 HD color digital camera coupled to a Leica M80 stereomicroscope. Scale bars were defined with the module Leica LAS Interactive Measurements.

Priogymnanthus saxicolus Lombardi, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1, 2, 3)

It resembles *Priogymnanthus hasslerianus* (Chodat) P.S.Green through leaf shape and the inflorescence axis bracted at base, but differing by the unique character combination of persistently villose abaxial leaf surface, short congested inflorescences, and inflorescence axis and pedicels puberulent to villose.

Type:—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais, Matias Cardoso, próximo à extração de cascalho, 14°53'23.4"S 43°44'46.9"W, 530 m, 27 October 2014 (fl), Lombardi 10444 (holotype, HRCB; isotypes, BHCN, K, NY, RB).