



## A new species of *Simaba* sect. *Grandiflorae* (Simaroubaceae) from Jalapão region, Tocantins, Brazil

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### Abstract

*Simaba tocantina*, a new species of Simaroubaceae, is described and illustrated. It belongs to *Simaba* sect. *Grandiflorae* since its flowers reach 21–25 mm long and its staminal appendages are covered by intertwined trichomes forming a pseudotube around the gynoecium. Its differences from the related species in the section are pointed out herein, including a key to the five species of the group. As other *cerrado* members in the genus, the new species is a shrub with a thickened underground system, from which a few aerial branches develop, as well as a long, erect, showy inflorescence. It is known only by a few records from the *cerrado* of the Jalapão State Park in Tocantins, Brazilian Central Plateau, and its conservation status is assessed.

### Resumo

*Simaba tocantina*, uma nova espécie de Simaroubaceae, é descrita e ilustrada. Ela pertence a *Simaba* sect. *Grandiflorae*, uma vez que suas flores têm 21–25 mm de comprimento e seus apêndices estaminais são cobertos de tricomas entrelaçados formando um pseudotubo em torno do gineceu. Suas diferenças das espécies mais relacionadas na seção são discutidas, incluindo uma chave de identificação das cinco espécies deste grupo. Como ocorre em outros membros do gênero que habitam o cerrado, a nova espécie é um arbusto com um sistema subterrâneo espessado, a partir do qual poucos ramos aéreos se desenvolvem, bem como uma inflorescência longa, ereta e vistosa. A espécie é conhecida apenas de poucos registros da região de cerrados do Parque Estadual do Jalapão, no estado do Tocantins, no Planalto Central Brasileiro, e seu status de conservação é aqui acessado.

**Key words:** *cerrado*; endemism; Jalapão State Park; Sapindales; Taxonomy

### Introduction

*Simaba* Aublet (1775: 400) is the largest genus in the Simaroubaceae, a mostly tropical family of Sapindales with 22 genera and ca. 109 species (Clayton 2011). *Simaba* is mostly restricted to tropical South America, with only one species, *S. cedron* Planchon (1846: 566), reaching Central America. While *S. monophylla* (Oliver) Cronquist (1944: 88) and *S. moretti* Feuillet (1983: 745) are endemic to the Guianas region, and *S. praecox* Hassler (1907: 723) is endemic to Paraguay, all remaining species are recorded to Brazil, which is the diversity center of the group. The genus encompasses an interesting array of morphological variation, related to its wide ecological and geographical distribution. Its species may be treelets to tall trees in the Amazon forests or in moist to seasonal areas along the Atlantic forest (from São Paulo State to Rio Grande do Norte states). On the other hand, several species are shrubs or subshrubs, commonly with a thick underground system, found on open formations like the *Cerrado* (Neotropical savanna) in Central Brazil and neighbor countries, or in the sandy, *restinga vegetation* on sedimentary plains along the coast of Brazil (e.g. Cavalcante 1983). The leaves in *Simaba* species are pinnate, seldom unifoliolate; the leaflets are opposite to subopposite, discolor, and often provided with an apical gland, which can be very conspicuous or not to the naked eye. The flowers are produced along terminal to subterminal inflorescences (thyrses), which may reach