



## A new species of *Varronia* (Cordiaceae) and a *checklist* of Boraginales for the State of Sergipe, Brazil

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### Abstract

*Varronia johnstoniana*, a new species of Cordiaceae is described for Sergipe State, Brazil. This new taxon is characterized principally by having sessile, shiny leaves, corolla with rufescent indumentum, and verrucose fruits. Illustrations, data concerning its habitats, distribution, reproductive phenology, and comments about taxonomic affinities based on morphology are presented. A *checklist* of Boraginales in Sergipe State is presented, comprising three families, seven genera, and 28 species, of which ten species constituting new occurrences, with their respective vegetation types.

**Key words:** Boraginales, taxonomic richness, South America

### Resumo

*Varronia johnstoniana*, uma nova espécie de Cordiaceae é descrita para o estado de Sergipe, Brasil. Este novo táxon caracteriza-se, principalmente, por apresentar folhas sésseis de lâmina lustrosa, corola com indumento rufescente e frutos verrucosos. São apresentadas ilustrações, dados sobre habitats, distribuição, fenologia reprodutiva e comentários sobre afinidades taxonômicas baseados em morfologia. A *checklist* de Boraginales incluindo três famílias, sete gêneros e 28 espécies, das quais 10 espécies constituem novas ocorrências, é apresentada com respectivos tipos vegetacionais para o estado de Sergipe.

### Introduction

Sergipe State is located in the eastern region of northeastern Brazil (09°31'–11°34'S, 36°24'–38°11'W). With an approximate area of 22 km<sup>2</sup>, it is the smallest state in the country, corresponding to only 0.26% of its total area (1.42% of the Brazilian northeast). It is bordered to the north by Alagoas State (along the São Francisco River), to the south and west by Bahia State, and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, occupying a coastal strip approximately 120 km wide and 163 km long. The state has a rather complex and heterogeneous geology, encompassing Precambrian terrains, sedimentary covers, and recent deposits (França & Cruz 2007); the Atlantic Rainforest and Caatinga biomes are prevalent (Santos & Andrade 1992).

The Serra de Itabaiana National Park (created June 15, 2005; Decree number 114 of 16 June 2005) (Fig. 1) is located in the “Agreste” region of Sergipe, 45 kilometers from the state capital of Aracaju, within the municipalities of Areia Branca, Itabaiana, Itaporanga D’Ajuda, Laranjeiras, and Campo do Brito. It comprises an area of 7966 ha in a transition zone between Caatinga and Atlantic Rainforest at altitudes from 400 to 659 m, with a predominantly semiarid climate, and annual rainfall between 1100 and 1300 mm (IBAMA 2006).

During the taxonomic survey of Boraginales for the project “Flora of Sergipe”, a new species of *Varronia* P. Browne (1756: 172) was encountered that is described and illustrated here. This new taxon has been recorded so far for Restinga vegetation, especially in the area of the Serra de Itabaiana National Park (PARNA), and in Caatinga vegetation in Sergipe State.