



Four new species of *Eugenia* (Myrtaceae) from the Caatinga and Atlantic Forest of northeastern Brazil

KAROLINE COUTINHO¹, MARLA IBRAHIM UEHBE DE OLIVEIRA² & LÍGIA SILVEIRA FUNCH³

¹Departamento de Botânica, Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil
(karolinecoutho@yahoo.com.br)

²Universidade Tiradentes, Aracaju, Sergipe, Brazil (marlauehbe@yahoo.com.br)

³Departamento de Botânica, Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil (ligiafunch@yahoo.com.br)

Abstract

There are described, illustrated and compared to similar taxa *Eugenia caatingicola*, *E. funchiana*, *E. coccinea* and *E. potiraguensis*. The first three species occur in areas of *caatinga* (dryland) vegetation (Bahia and Piauí states), while *E. potiraguensis* is encountered in the Atlantic Forest (Bahia), Brazil. *Eugenia caatingicola* can be distinguished from *Eugenia subreticula* by the texture of the periderm of the older branches, leaf apices retuse, and hypanthium sericeous. *Eugenia funchiana* is similar to *E. dentata*, but have undulate leaves, smaller petioles and pedicels, and hypanthium not costate. *Eugenia coccinea* differs from *E. duarteana* by having membranaceous leaves, calyx lobes with reddish trichomes at apex, and hypanthium glabrous. *Eugenia potiraguensis* differs from *E. plicata* by having central veins glabrous, larger petioles, and calyx lobes equal between them. Additionally, each species is evaluated in its conservation status.

Key words: Bahia, IUCN, Myrteae, Piauí, Taxonomy

Resumo

São descritas, ilustradas e comparadas com as espécies afins *Eugenia caatingicola*, *E. funchiana*, *E. coccinea* e *E. potiraguensis*. As três primeiras ocorrem em áreas de *caatinga* (Bahia e Piauí), e *E. potiraguensis*, em floresta atlântica (Bahia), no Brasil. *Eugenia caatingicola* se distingue de *Eugenia subreticula* pela textura da periderme nos ramos velhos, ápice das folhas retuso e hipanto serício. *Eugenia funchiana* se assemelha a *E. dentata*, entretanto apresenta folhas onduladas, pecíolos e pedicelos menores e hipanto não costado. *Eugenia coccinea* difere de *E. duarteana* pelas folhas membranáceas, lobos do cálice com tricomas avermelhados no ápice e hipanto glabro. *Eugenia potiraguensis* se diferencia de *E. plicata* pelas nervuras centrais glabras, pecíolos grandes e lobos do cálice iguais entre si. Adicionalmente, o status de conservação das espécies é avaliado.

Palavras-chave: Bahia, IUCN, Myrteae, Piauí, Taxonomia

Introduction

Myrtaceae comprises more than 140 genera and approximately 5500 species distributed largely in tropical and subtropical regions, with its main centers of diversity in the Neotropics and Australia (Wilson *et al.* 2005, Wilson 2011, WCSP 2013). The family is divided into two subfamilies: Psiloxylloideae and Myrtoideae, with most of the genera being included in the latter. All American genera, except *Tepualia* Grisebach (1854: 119), belong to Myrteae, where *Eugenia* Linnaeus (1753: 470) is circumscribed (Wilson *et al.* 2005, Wilson 2011).

Eugenia is the second largest genus of Myrtaceae, comprising 550–1010 species that are mostly distributed from Mexico and the Caribbean region to northern Argentina, with only a few species in Africa (van der Merwe *et al.* 2005, Govaerts *et al.* 2008, Wilson 2011). There are approximately 380 species in Brazil, with 254 species estimated to occur in the Atlantic Forest, 83 in the Amazon region, 80 in Cerrado (neotropical savanna vegetation), and 33 in the Caatinga (dryland) biome (Sobral *et al.* 2015).