



Three new endangered species of *Trembleya* DC. (Melastomataceae: Microlicieae) from Minas Gerais, Brazil

RICARDO B. PACIFICO¹ & KARINA FIDANZA²

¹Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Pós-Graduação em Biologia Comparada. Av. Colombo, 5790, Jardim Universitário, CEP 87020-900, Maringá, PR, Brazil. E-mail: ricardo_b9@hotmail.com

²Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Departamento de Biologia, Pós-Graduação em Biologia Comparada. Av. Colombo, 5790, Jardim Universitário, CEP 87020-900, Maringá, PR, Brazil.

Abstract

During the preparation of a monograph of *Trembleya* DC. (Melastomataceae) three new species were found that are here described and illustrated: *Trembleya acuminata* can be recognized by its ovate and vernicose leaves with an acuminate-cuspidate apex, 6-merous flowers, and 4-locular ovary. *Trembleya botaensis* and *Trembleya thomazii* are closely related, differing by the indumentum with only sessile glands, white/purple colored petals, calyx lobes without a glandular apical seta, and by the apically rounded connective of the antesepalous stamens in *Trembleya thomazii*.

Resumo

Durante a preparação da revisão taxonômica de *Trembleya* DC. (Melastomataceae), três novas espécies foram encontradas e são aqui descritas e ilustradas: *Trembleya acuminata*, *Trembleya botaensis* e *Trembleya thomazii*. *Trembleya acuminata* pode ser reconhecida pelas folhas vernicosas, ovadas, de ápice acuminado, e pelas flores 6-meras com ovário 4-locular. *Trembleya botaensis* e *Trembleya thomazii* são espécies próximas, sendo que *Trembleya thomazii* se difere por apresentar indumento composto apenas por glândulas sésseis, pétalas brancas/púrpuras, lacínias do cálice sem seta apical glandular, e apêndice do conectivo dos estames ante-sépalos com ápice arredondado.

Key words: endemism; Espinhaço Range; Serra do Cabral

Introduction

Trembleya De Candolle (1828: 125), comprising ca. 18 validly published species to date, is a genus of shrubs and subshrubs largely confined to “campos rupestres” [Brazilian rocky montane savannas *sensu* Alves *et al.* (2014)]. In both Brazilian and foreign herbaria there are just a few specimens of *Trembleya* available for study [except for two widespread species, *Trembleya parviflora* (David Don 1823: 323) Cogniaux (1883: 127) and *Trembleya phlogiformis* De Candolle (1828: 126)]. Some of the rarer species have not been collected for prolonged periods [e.g., *Trembleya pithyoides* Chamisso (1834: 128), collected in 1891 and again only in 2009] or are known from less than 10 specimens collected [such as *Trembleya rosmarinoides* De Candolle (1828: 125), *Trembleya chamissoana* Naudin (1849: 270) and *Trembleya elegans* (Cogniaux 1883: 160–161) Almeda & A.B. Martins (2001: 6)].

The center of *Trembleya* diversity is located in mid-northern Minas Gerais, more precisely at Serra do Cabral—a set of mountains where the environment is characterized by high insolation, seasonal rainfall, nutrient-poor soils and periodic fires (Fidanza *et al.* 2013) (Fig 1). On September 29th, 2005, the area was designated as a state park (Parque Estadual da Serra do Cabral—state decree 44.121) in order to assure protection for its biota and archeological sites. Despite the limited knowledge of regional flora, several new species have been published recently for the Serra do Cabral region (Assis 2002; Fortuna-Perez & Tozzi 2008; Romero 2010; Loeuille *et al.* 2011; Fidanza *et al.* 2013). Fortunately, many of the new species were collected within the boundaries of the state park and their populations are now protected from habitat destruction.

The Serra do Bota is a poorly known region, and it still scientifically underexplored. This mountain range is