

Article



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Taxonomic notes in Microlicia (Melastomataceae, Microlicieae)

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Abstract

The genus *Microlicia* comprises approximately 130 species, the characters that define the species are very often tenuous, making delimitation between closely related species difficult. As a result of a taxonomic study on *Microlicia*, 14 new synonyms are proposed here and 10 lectotypes are designated.

Resumo

O gênero *Microlicia* compreende aproximadamente 130 espécies, e as características que definem as espécies são frequentemente muito tênues, tornando difícil a delimitação entre as espécies próximas. Como parte dos estudos taxonômicos do gênero *Microlicia*, são propostos aqui 14 novos sinônimos e designados 10 lectótipos.

Key words: Brazil, campo rupestre, lectotypification, Minas Gerais, taxonomy

Introduction

Microlicia Don (1823: 301) is a genus of approximately 130 species, 117 of which occur in Brazil, and at least 115 are considered endemic (Romero & Woodgyer 2013). The genus is extremely diverse in the *campo rupestre* and savannah vegetation of Bahia, Minas Gerais and Goiás (Romero 2003a).

The last complete monograph of *Microlicia* was carried out by Cogniaux (1891) nearly 130 years ago. 99 species were recognized in sections *Chaetostomoides* (Naudin) Cogniaux (1883: 43), *Pseudomicrolicia* Cogniaux (1883: 47), and *Microlicia* (1883: 59). Since then, only section *Chaetostomoides* has been revised, it is now monospecific (Romero 2003b). After Cogniaux's monograph (1891) at least 50 new species were added to the genus, mostly from the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais and Goiás.

The species of *Microlicia* are generally characterized by solitary flowers with five or occasionally six petals; a superior ovary with three or occasionally five locules and capsules dehiscing longitudinally from the apex to the base (Almeda & Martins 2001; Romero 2003b). Difficulty in the delimitation of closely related species may explain the high number of names proposed for several species in the genus. Analysis of type material of 12 binomials and 9 trinomials has allowed lectotypification and new synonymy for some of these names.

Materials and Methods

This study is based on literature and on the analysis of collections deposited in the following herbaria: BM, BR, G, K, HUFU, M, MO, NY, P, and W (acronyms according to Thiers 2013).

Results and Discussion

- 1. *Microlicia isophylla* De Candolle (1828: 120). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: pascuis editis arenosis montium prov. Minas Gerais, *s.d.*, *Martius 912* (holotype M 165702!).
- = Microlicia glabra De Candolle (1828: 120). **Type:**—BRAZIL. s.loc., s.d., s.c., s.n. (holotype G 310280!), syn. nov.
- = *Microlicia isophylla* var. β. *laxa* Chamisso (1834: 395). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Serra de Capivary, 1836, *Sellow B 1187 c.* 1773 (holotype M!; isotypes G!, K!, P!), *syn. nov.*
- = *Microlicia isophylla* var. γ. *latifolia* Cogniaux (1883: 64). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: in montosis siccis da Ouro Preto et Alto do Morro Ouro Branco, *s.d.*, *Pohl 1222* (lectotype K 530556! left-hand branch, **here designated**; isolectotype K!), *syn. nov*.
- Remaining syntypes of *Microlicia isophylla* var. *latifolia*: BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Congonhas do Campo, *s.d.*, *Stephan s.n.* (BR 526145!). Campos da Bocaina, *s.d.*, *Glaziou 8372* (BR 520794!, P!). São Paulo, 1839, *Guillemin Cat. n. 388 bis* (G!, P!). *s.loc.*, 1840, *Clausen 1021* (G!, P!, W!). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Pohl 3693* (BR!). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Pohl 4168* (NY!). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Clausen 21* (BR!, G!). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Clausen 376A* (BR 520827!). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Clausen 641* (BR 520793!). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, a part of *Martius 916* (BM!, BR!, G!, K! 2 sheets, M!, P!, W!).
- = *Microlicia pulchella* Chamisso (1834: 392). **Type:**—BRAZIL. *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Sellow s.n.* [1184 c. 1770], (lectotype K 275871!, **here designated**; isolectotypes BR 522165!, K 275872!, P!, W!), *syn. nov.*
- = *Microlicia pulchella var.* β. *diffusa* Cogniaux (1883: 75). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: in petrosis ad Serra da Lapa, *s.d.*, *Riedel 1337* (lectotype BR 522132!, **here designated**; isolectotypes K!, P!, W!), *syn. nov.*
- = *Microlicia parvifolia* var. β *viscosa* Naudin (1845: 177). **Type:**—BRAZIL. São Paulo, 1833, *Gaudichaud in Herb. Imp. Bras.* 707 (holotype P!), *syn. nov.*
- = *Microlicia doryphylla* Naudin (1845: 181). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Ouro Preto, 1845, part of *Claussen 308* (holotype P!, isotypes BR!, right-hand branch, P!), *syn. nov.*
- = *Microlicia doryphylla* var. β. *puberula* Cogniaux (1883: 75). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: prope Ouro Preto, *s.d.*, part of *Claussen* 308 (fide Cogniaux 1883) (holotype BR 526181!, left-hand branch), *syn. nov*.
- = *Microlicia doryphylla* var. γ. *cuneifolia* Cogniaux (1883: 75). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: in collibus apricis prope Ouro Preto, *s.d.*, *Riedel 2691* (holotype BR!, isotypes K 530537!, P!), *syn. nov.*
- = *Microlicia doryphylla* var. *glabra* Cogniaux (1891: 48). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Rio das Mortes, 24 January 1889, *Glaziou 17511* (lectotype BR 533428!, **here designated**; isolectotypes BR 533461!, G!, P! 3 sheets), *syn. nov.*
- ≡ *Microlicia uncata* Cogniaux (1883: 64). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: in altis campis alpestribus Serro Frio et alibi locis ultra 1300 m., *s.d.*, *Martius 912* (holotype M 165702!; isotype BR!), *syn. nov.* This is a duplicate of the type of *M. isophylla* De Candolle.

De Candolle (1828) described *Microlicia isophylla* based on a specimen from "*Brasilia pascuis editis arenosis montion Minas Geraes*", not indicating the name of the collector. The author stated that the description was based on the manuscript name '*Rhexia isophylla et uncata* of Schrank *et Martius*'. A specimen deposited at M herbarium has a handwritten description by Schrank & Martius named *Rhexia isophylla*; it is clearly the holotype of *M. isophylla*.

While describing *M. pulchella* Chamisso (1834) referred to a collection made by Sellow in Brazil without citing the number of the collector or the herbarium where it was deposited. The collection examined by Chamisso (1834) was probably deposited at the B herbarium, destroyed during World War II. Since the author did not indicate the holotype, the Sellow specimen deposited at K herbarium, is here designated as lectotype of *M. pulchella*.

In the protologue of *M. doryphylla*, Naudin (1845) noted only Ouro Preto as the location of the specimen collection. Some years later, Naudin (1849) added the name Claussen as collector of this specimen. According to Martin & Cremers (2007) the specimen *Claussen 308* deposited in P should be considered the holotype.

Cogniaux (1883) described *M. doryphylla* var. *puberula* based on a part of *Claussen 308*. The sheet seen at herbarium BR has two branches: the branch on the right side is glabrous and the branch on the left side has sparse indumentum, and both match the original description of *M. doryphylla* and *M. doryphylla* var. *puberula*, respectively.

Cogniaux (1891) described *M. doryphylla* var. *glabra* based on two syntypes. *Glaziou 17511* at BR is designated as lectotype, because it is a better representation of the description, clearly showing the characters mentioned in the protologue. The other syntype, *Moura 261*, actually does not match the description of *M. doryphylla* and may possibly be a new species.

Microlicia isophylla var. *laxa* was described by Chamisso (1834) to include specimens with flexuous and much branched stems, without leaves at the base and with a thick leaf blade, and glutinous or not. *Microlicia isophylla* var. *latifolia* was described by Cogniaux (1883) to accommodate specimens with a sparse arrangement of leaves in the branches and the leaves smaller than the length of the internodes. According to Cogniaux (1883), *M. isophylla* var. *latifolia* has leaves slightly larger ($4-6 \times 1-2$ mm) than the typical form ($3-5 \times 0.6-0.7$ mm). Leaf characteristics used to describe both varieties are insufficient to maintain the varieties, and are certainly variations on the typical form.

According to Naudin (1849), *M. doryphylla* is very similar to *M. parvifolia* Naudin (1845: 177) and *M. pulchella* Chamisso (1834: 392), because the habit is common to all three species. *Microlicia pulchella* var. *diffusa* has few-branched stems, without leaves at the base, *M. doryphylla* var. *puberula* presents pubescent indumentums, in *M. doryphylla* var. *cuneifolia* the leaves are obovate with attenuate bases, in *M. parvifolia* var. *viscosa* the leaves are glutinous, and in *M. doryphylla* var. *glabra* the branches are glabrous. All of this variation does not permit the maintenance of these varieties; they are here synonymized under *M. isophylla*.

Microlicia isophylla is very polymorphic regarding the vegetative and reproductive features. The leaves are sessile or with a short petiole not exceeding 1 mm long. The leaf blade varies from lanceolate, elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, rounded base, sometimes cuneate (M. doryphylla var. cuneifolia). The apex is usually acute and can present a short thickened tip, which also occurs in the calyx lobes. The stems, leaves, pedicel, hypanthium and calyx lobes have an indumentum of sessile glands, giving a glutinous aspect to the plant (M. parvifolia var. viscosa). Occasionally the branches, leaves, pedicel, hypanthium, and calyx lobes present an indumentum of short, pale trichomes, and the number of trichomes is quite variable (M. doryphylla var. puberula). Leaves with 3 nerves from the base, not always visible, but the central nerve is always evident and often in dried material, and is darker than the blade. The margin varies from entire to slightly crenulate and the pedicel from 1–4 mm long.

The specific epithet *isophylla* (*iso*=equal, *phylla*=leaf) emphasizes the equal size of the leaves on the branches, since this pattern is often observed in the referred species. Besides the distribution pattern of the leaves on the branches, *M. isophylla* can be also recognized by its ascending, lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate leaves, with attenuate, rounded, rarely cuneate bases and acute to short-acuminate apices, often with the same length as the internode, and young branches, leaves, hypanthium, and calyx lobes covered with sessile, golden glands, occasionally with an indumentum of short, pale trichomes.

Microlicia isophylla is a much branched subshrub 30–50 cm tall, flowers with pedicel ca. 1.5 mm long, terete hypanthium with triangular-subulate calyx lobes and acute apex. The petals are magenta and the dimorphic stamens have bicolored anthers.

Microlicia isophylla occurs in campo de altitude, campo rupestre and campo sujo from Minas Gerais, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro states.

Additional material examined. BRAZIL: Minas Gerais: Itacolomi, August 1824, Riedel 404 (K). Idem, February 1835, Riedel 2690 (K 530562). Idem, 9 February 1884, Glaziou 14715 (K, P). Idem, May 1885, Glaziou 14798 (K). Idem, s.d., Glaziou 14738 (K, P). Idem, ca. 2 km de Ouro Preto, 30 January 1971, H.S. Irwin et al. 29353 (K). Serra da Carassa [do Caraça], January 1825, Riedel 1450 (P, W). Serra do Lenheiro, 13 October 1886, Glaziou 15966 (K 530558, P). São João D'El Rei, Serra do Lenheiro, 13 December 1886, Glaziou 15967 (K, P). São Tomé das Letras, 22 February 1999, M.C. Assis & E.N. Lughadha 591 (K, SPF). São Roque de Minas, Serra da Canastra, 22 March 1996, R. Romero & J.N. Nakajima 3391 (HUFU, K). Rio de Janeiro: s.d., Glaziou 4175 (K). s.loc., 1817, Langsdorff s.n. (K). s.loc., 1820, Steven s.n. (G). s.loc., August 1889, Glaziou 19571 (K). s.loc., s.d., Claussen 19 (BR). s.loc., s.d., Claussen 26 (BR). s.loc., s.d., Glaziou 17910 (K). s.loc., s.d., Martius s.n. (K 530563). s.loc., s.d., Riedel s.n. (BR, K, M, P, W).

2. Microlicia linifolia (De Candolle) Chamisso (1834: 395).

Basionym:—*Lavoisiera linifolia* De Candolle (1828: 104). **Type:** —BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: ad Serro Frio, 1827, *Martius s.n.* (holotype M!; isotype G 219810!).

= *Microlicia linifolia* var. β. *naudiniana* Cogniaux (1883: 63). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: in aridis arenosis montium circa Tijuco, 1833, *Vauthier 18* (lectotype P!, **here designated**; isolectotypes BR 521063!, G!, P! 2 sheets). = *Microlicia insignis* Naudin (1845: 183), *nom. illegit.*, *non* Schlechtendal (1834: 750), *syn. nov*.

Cogniaux (1883) considered *M. insignis* Naudin (1845) a variety of *M. linifolia* and correctly assigned a new name (*M. linifolia* var. *naudiniana*) since the name *M. insignis* had been previously used by Schlechtendal (1834). According to Martin & Cremers (2007), the holotype of *M. linifolia* var. *naudiniana* (1883: 63) is at P. Nevertheless, Naudin (1845) pointed out the specimens are deposited at *herb. Mus. Par. Rich. et Deless.* (P and G, respectively), and therefore one specimen deposited in P is designated here as the lectotype of *M. linifolia* var. *naudiniana*, since it is in agreement with the protologue.

Cogniaux (1883) described *M. linifolia* var. *naudiniana* as a subshrub 50–70 cm tall, without leaves at the base, leaf blade 10–15 mm long with a central nerve not evident. These characters, evident in the type collection are insufficient to recognize this morphology as a variety and can be considered within the normal variation expected in *M. linifolia*.

Microlicia linifolia is a branched, xylopodiferous, subshrub ca. 40–60 cm tall, with petiolate leaves (petiole ca. 1 mm long), lanceolate leaf blade with an attenuate base, acute apex, and covered with sessile, spherical glands, and the smooth surface. The flowers have a glutinous, campanulate hypanthium with long calyx lobes, the apex acute and apiculate.

Microlicia linifolia is known only by few collections made more than 120 years ago in Minas Gerais state, where it seems to be endemic and rare. Efforts have been made to find populations of *M. linifolia*, mainly in Biribiri State Park and around Diamantina, Minas Gerais, but without success.

Additional material examined. BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Biribiri, 30 March 1892, *Glaziou 19219* (K, 2 sheets, P 5316803, P 5316808, P 5316809). Serra do Cipó, Morro das Mangabeiras, 23 April 1892, *Glaziou 19163a* (P). *s.loc.*, 1842, *Gardner 4633* (K, P 5316801). *s.loc.*, 1846, *Gardner 4634* (BM, BR, G, K 2 sheets, P 5316812, P 5316817, W). *s.loc.*, 1871, *Buchinger s.n.* (P 5316816).

3. *Microlicia martiana* O. Berg. ex Triana (1873: 28). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Martius* 915 (lectotype K 530545!, **here designated**; isolectotypes BM 795937!, BR! 4 sheets, G! 5 sheets, K 530544!, M 165708!, M 165709!, M 165710!, P!, W!).

Remaining syntypes: BRAZIL. *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Claussen 1840* (not seen), *s.d.*, Pico do Itabira do Campo, *Claussen 36* (G!, P! 3 sheets). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Clausen 1029* (G!, W!). *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Reise 21* (not seen); *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Langsdorff s.n.* (K!).

Triana (1873) described *Microlicia martiana* based on six syntypes: *Langsdorff s.n.*, *Claussen 1840*, *Claussen 36*, *Clausen 1029*, *Reise 21* and *Martius 915*. The collection *Martius 915* at K is designated as lectotype, because it is the most representative, clearly showing the characters mentioned in the protologue.

Microlicia martiana is a subshrub 30–50 cm tall species with fastigiate branches; young branches are sharply quadrangular, the older terete, glabrescent, without leaves at the base and a bark gradually peeling to reveal underlying brownish wood. The young branches, leaves, hypanthium and calyx lobes are glutinous, with sessile, golden glands. The leaves are horizontal, discolored, with a dark green adaxial surface and a short petiole (0.4–0.6 mm long). The leaf blade is linear-lanceolate, attenuate and 3–nerved at base, with an acute, sometimes apiculate apex, margin entire or lightly undulating, the midrib is impressed on the adaxial surface and prominent on the abaxial surface.

Microlicia martiana is endemic to Minas Gerais, occurring in Conceição do Mato Dentro, Itabirito, Nova Lima and São Roque de Minas, in *cerrado*, *campo rupestre* and *campo limpo*, in sandy soil.

Additional material examined. BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Conceição do Mato Dentro, Serra do Cipó, km 137, 21 April 1955, *A.P. Duarte 2596* (US). Nova Lima, Morro do Chapéu, 22 March 2001, *R. Romero & J.N. Nakajima 5916* (HUFU). Pico do Itabira do Campo, 20 December 1888, *Glaziou 17509* (K). Pico do Itabirito, área de mineração, MBR, 23 March 2001, *R. Romero & J.N. Nakajima 5926* (HUFU). São Gonçalo do Rio Preto, Parque Estadual do Rio Preto, 18 November 1999, *J.A. Lombardi 3494* (BHCB, HUFU). São Roque de Minas, Parque Nacional da Serra da Canastra, Cachoeira Casca D'Anta, base do Morro, 20 January 1995, *J.N. Nakajima et al.* 929 (HUFU).

- 4. *Microlicia multicaulis* Mart. ex Naudin (1845: 184). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: in mont. Carassa [Caraça], May 1832, *Martius 932* (lectotype P!, **designated here**; isolectotypes BM 795957!, BM 795958!, BR! 4 sheets, G! 3 sheets, K 530453!, M 165714!, M 165715!, W!).
- = Microlicia arenariifolia Chamisso (1834: 396) as "arenariaefolia". **Type:**—BRAZIL. s.loc., s.d., Sellow s.n. (BR!, K 530551!), nom. illeg., non M. arenariifolia De Candolle (1828: 120) as "arenariaefolia".
- = *Microlicia arenariifolia* var. β. *riedeliana* Cogniaux (1883: 66, tabula 13, figure 2). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: in saxoxis mont. Carassa [Caraça], *s.d.*, *Riedel 1445* (lectotype BR!, **here designated**; isolectotype W!). *syn. nov*.
- = *Microlicia pseudoscoparia* Cogniaux (1883: 60, tabula 13, figure 1). **Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Carassa [Caraça], *s.d.*, *Sellow 1334* (lectotype BR 522100!, **here designated**; isolectotypes BR 522198!, K 530459!, M!), *syn. nov*.

According to Martin & Cremers (2007), the holotype of *M. multicaulis* is at P. Nevertheless, Naudin (1845) pointed out the specimens are deposited at *herb*. *Deless. et Mus. Par.* (G and P, respectively), and therefore the specimen deposited in P is designated here as the lectotype of *M. multicaulis*, since it is in agreement with the protologue.

In the protologue of *M. pseudoscoparia*, here synonymized under *M. multicaulis*, Cogniaux (1883) indicated that the type collection was deposited in several herbaria (*Herb. Berol., Brux., Vindob., and Acad. Petrop.*). The specimen *Sellow 1334* at herbarium BR is designated here as lectotype of *M. pseudoscoparia*, since it is in good conditions and the characteristics are according to the protologue of the species. The specimen *Sellow 1334* has quadrangular branches with concolorous and ascending leaves, the leaf blade is linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, attenuate at base, with an acute apex, without arista, barely undulating margin, and adaxial and abaxial surfaces of the leaf covered with sessile, spherical glands, these sunken, making the leaves slightly wrinkled. The leaves have a short petiole ca. 1 mm long and the hypanthium is glutinous, shining, the calyx lobes are glutinous, lanceolate, acute apex and with the same size of the hypanthium or slightly longer. These features fall within the morphological variation of *M. multicaulis* and therefore *M. pseudoscoparia* is considered synonymous with *M. multicaulis*.

Cogniaux (1883) described *Microlicia arenariifolia* var. *riedeliana* Cogniaux (1883: 68) based on *Riedel 1445* from Serra do Caraça, Minas Gerais state. After examining these collections we concluded that the specimen fits *M. multicaulis* Mart. ex Naudin (1845: 184), which was also described from a collection by Martius in Serra do Caraça. The specimen has ascending leaves with petioles ca. 0.5 mm long, basally attenuate, linear-lanceolate leaf blades with acute apices and arista ca. 1 mm long, entire margins, and only one central nerve. Thus, we accept *M. arenariifolia* De Candolle (1828: 120) as an extra-Brazilian species occurring in Bolivia and *M. arenariifolia* var. *riedeliana* as a synonym of *M. multicaulis*.

Microlicia arenariifolia is a branched, xylopodiferous subshrub, 40 cm tall with sessile leaves, lanceolate leaf blades with attenuate bases, acute apices with short arista, and covered with sessile, spherical glands. The flowers have a glabrous, campanulate hypanthium with calyx lobes shorter than the hypanthium or the same length, the apex acute and apiculate.

Microlicia multicaulis has close affinity with *M. arenariifolia*, differing mainly in the leaves that have a short petiole in the former but are sessile in the latter. The distribution of these species is disjunct with *M. arenariifolia* occurring in Bolivia.

Microlicia multicaulis is a subshrub, 40-80 cm tall, with a single or much-branched stem, in the latter

case, with several branches. The older branches are terete, while younger ones are distinctly quadrangular, glutinous, and glabrescent and leafless at the base, the leaves, hypanthium and calyx lobes covered with sessile glands. Leaves are ascending and with a short petiole, 0.5–1 mm long. The leaf blade is linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, with an attenuate base, entire margin, apices are acute with an apical seta (ca. 1 mm long), and only one central nerve. The hypanthium is campanulate, striate and glutinous, with triangular-lanceolate calyx lobes with acute apices with a long, apical seta.

Additional material examined. BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Caraça, Morro da Carapuça à Caraça, 11 January 1884, Glaziou 14719 (K, P 2 sheets). Idem, 17 February 1884, Glaziou 14716 (P). Ibidem, 19 February 1884, Glaziou 14718 (K, P). Ibidem, 14 April 1933, M. Barreto 6996 (HUFU). Ibidem, caminho para gruta do Padre Caio, 24 May 1987, M.B. Horta et al. 89 (HUFU). Ibidem, trilha para a Carapuça, s.d., J. Semir et al. s.n. (HUFU 6205). Catas Altas, Parque Natural do Caraça, (20°04'30"S, 43°30'36"W), 26 March 2001, R. Romero & J.N. Nakajima 5979 (HUFU). Caxoeira da Vargem Grande, 5 January 1895, Glaziou 21228 (K, P). Congonhas da Serra, 20 April 1892, Glaziou 19217 (K, P 2 sheets). Morro das Mangabeiras, 23 April 1892, Glaziou 19219 (P 5316873, P 5316874). Pico do Itacolomi, 25 February 1987, T.S.M. Grandi et al. 2086 (BHCB, HUFU). Idem, 9 February 1884, Glaziou 14717 (G, K, P 3 sheets). Santa Bárbara, s.loc., 1892, Glaziou 19218 (K). Goiás: Alto Paraíso, Chapada dos Veadeiros, 24 June 1994, V.L.G. Klein et al. 2455 (HUFU). s.loc., s.d., Pohl 1221, 1966 (W).

5. *Microlicia myrtoidea* Chamisso (1834: 393). **Type:**—BRAZIL. *s.loc.*, *s.d.*, *Sellow s.n.* (lectotype K 530535!, here designated; isolectotypes BR 5221684!, K 530534!, M 165716!, P!).

Chamisso (1834) described *Microlicia myrtoidea* based on two syntypes. *Lhotzky*'s specimen could not be found, and *Sellow s.n.* is designated here as lectotype of *M. myrtoidea*, since it is in agreement with the protologue of the species.

Microlicia myrtoidea is a branched, subshrub, c. 50 cm tall. The leaves are ovate-lanceolate, with 3, rarely 5, abaxially evident nerves from the base, leaf bases are rounded, apices acute, with short thickened tips, the short petioles (ca. 0.2 mm long) are flattened. The young branches, leaves, hypanthia and calyx lobes are covered with sessile, golden glands. The hypanthium is terete to slightly urceolate with triangular calyx lobes shorter than the hypanthium, and with a long arista on its apex.

The occurrence of *Microlicia myrtoidea* is restricted to Jaguariaiva and Senges, in Paraná, and in Itararé, in São Paulo.

Additional material examined. BRAZIL. Paraná: Senges, margem esquerda e direita do Rio Funil, 8 April 1995, *S.S. Oliveira et al. s.n.* (HUFU 12113). São Paulo: Itararé, rodovia Itararé—Itapeva, próximo à ponte do Rio Verde, área de campo alagável com cerrado adjacente, 26 November 1994, *V.C. Souza et al.* 4655 (HUFU).

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