New names in *Monotagma* (Marantaceae)

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Abstract

A taxonomic revision of *Monotagma* (Marantaceae) concludes that this genus comprises 37 species, of which the following 18 species are here described as new: *M. aurantispathum*, *M. breviscapum*, *M. congestum*, *M. exile*, *M. flavicomum*, *M. floribundum*, *M. grallatum*, *M. humile*, *M. lilacinum*, *M. nutans*, *M. papillosum*, *M. paradoxum*, *M. remotum*, *M. roseum*, *M. septentroniale*, *M. spatulatum*, *M. tuberosum*, and *M. uliginosum*. Furthermore, the new subspecies *M. grallatum* subsp. *subcentricifolium* is described. It is also proposed that these species are best treated in two monophyletic sections, viz. *Monotagma* sect. *Monotagma* with 20 species and the new *Monotagma* sect. *Tubularia* with 17 species. All new taxa are illustrated and described with notes on distribution and relationships, and a key to all recognized *Monotagma* species is given.

Key words: *Monotagma* sect. *Tubularia*, Neotropics, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Monotagma* Schumann (1902: 166) (Marantaceae) is exclusively Neotropical, and is an important element in the understory of humid lowland and premontane forests. Its species are perennial, rhizomatous herbs with lax or congested inflorescences, distinguished from other Marantaceae by flowers that occur solitary behind prophylls and have a single fertile ovary locule. *Monotagma* is without doubt monophyletic, belonging to the *Calathea* G.Meyer (1818: 6) group (Hagberg 1990b, Andersson & Chase 2001, Prince & Kress 2006). At present, 37 species of *Monotagma* are recognized (Hagberg 1990b), of which 18 are described as new in this paper.