Handroanthus grandiflorus (Bignoniaceae), a new species from the semiarid region of Brazil

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Abstract

Handroanthus grandiflorus, a new species of Bignoniaceae from the Caatinga biome, is described and illustrated. The species is Critically Endangered, and can be distinguished from its congeners by having a corolla with larger lobes, reaching to 6.1 × 4.3 cm. The diagnostic characters of the new species are discussed.

Key word: Caatinga, endangered species, Ipê, Tabebuia Alliance, taxonomy

Resumo

Handroanthus grandiflorus, uma nova espécie de Bignoniaceae da Caatinga, é descrita e ilustrada. A espécie encontra-se Criticamente Ameaçada e pode ser reconhecida no gênero pela corola com lobos maiores, alcançando até 6,1 × 4,3 cm. Os caracteres diagnósticos da nova espécie são discutidos.

Palavras-chave: Aliança Tabebuia, Caatinga, espécie ameaçada, Ipê, taxonomia

Introduction

Bignoniaceae comprises 82 genera and 827 species, and is an important component of Neotropical forests (Lohmann & Ulloa 2007). Brazil is a center of diversity for the family (Gentry 1992), with 32 genera and 391 species occurring in the country (Lohmann 2011).

Handroanthus Mattos (1970) is a small genus of about 30 species distributed throughout South and Central America, with one species occurring in the Antilles (Grose & Olmstead 2007a). The genus is currently included within the “Tabebuia Alliance”, which represents a clade composed mostly of species belonging to tribe Tecomeae sensu Gentry (1992) and whose informal name is due to the high number of Tabebuia spp. that belong to this lineage (Grose & Olmstead 2007b). Handroanthus is characterized by an arboreal habit, palmately compound leaves, (3–)5–9-foliolate, or rarely unifoliolate, with simple and/or branched trichomes, usually 5-lobed campanulate calyx, which is also covered with trichomes, corolla usually yellow, and capsules linear-cylindrical, pubescent, glabrous or sparsely lepidote.

In the course of the inventory of the species belonging to the Tabebuia Alliance that occur in the state of Bahia, a new Handroanthus species from the Caatinga biome was identified. The new species can be recognized by the corolla lobes, which are larger than in its congeners. This species is known from a single locality and is here described as H. grandiflorus.