



***Mimosa sobralii* (Fabaceae, Mimosoideae), a new tree species endemic to the southern Brazilian highland slopes**

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Abstract

Mimosa sobralii (Fabaceae), a new species of tree endemic to the northern highland slopes of the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, is described and illustrated. The new species is close to *M. bifurca*, from which it is set apart by the arborescent habit, yellow flowers and differences in leaflet morphology.

Resumo

Mimosa sobralii (Fabaceae), nova espécie endêmica da região fisionômica da encosta do planalto do estado brasileiro do Rio Grande do Sul, é descrita e ilustrada. A nova espécie é considerada próxima a *M. bifurca*, da qual se distingue pelo hábito arborescente, pelas flores amarelas e por diferenças morfológicas dos folíolos.

Key words: Atlantic Rainforest biome, *Mimosa*, Series *Stipellares*, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Mimosa* Linnaeus (1753: 516) comprises 536 species, out of which 496 are from the Americas (Simon *et al.* 2011). The largest center of diversity of the genus is in Central Brazil and in the extratropical region of South America (southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina) (Barneby 1991, Simon & Proença 2000, Savassi-Coutinho 2009, Simon *et al.* 2011). Species of *Mimosa* grow in a diverse array of habitats, particularly in open vegetation, and the genus is rich in narrowly restricted endemic species (Simon *et al.* 2011). Dutra & Morim (2013) cited 344 species for Brazil. The *Batocaulon* DeCandolle (1825: 429) section is characterized by the absence of a petiolar gland, diplostemonous flowers, absence of setae with dilated, appressed or spreading base. If stems are hispidly setose, the leaf axes and leaflet margins are merely puberulent or naked and corolla lobes are never striately nerved (Barneby 1991, Izaguirre & Beyhaut 2003). Series *Stipellares* Bentham in Hooker (1842: 406) is distinguished from other series in sect. *Batocaulon* primarily by the dilated paraphyllidia that simulate minute leaflets (Barneby 1991). During a survey of arboreal species in Rio Grande do Sul, the southernmost Brazilian State, we had the opportunity to examine an arborescent species of *Mimosa* sect. *Batocaulon* ser. *Stipellares*, proposed here as a new taxon.

Mimosa sobralii Grings & O.S. Ribas, *sp. nov.* (Figures 1, 2 and 3).

Species nova M. bifurcae proxima, a qua habitu arboreo et floribus flavis recedit.

TYPE:—BRAZIL. Rio Grande do Sul: Nova Petrópolis, Linha Imperial, near “CTG”, 19 August 2012, M. Grings 1677 (holotype ICN!, isotypes MBM!, MO!, K!).