Piper delirioi (Piperaceae), a new species from southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Piper delirioi Sarnaglia & E. F. Guim. (Piperaceae), is a new species from southeastern Brazil (Espírito Santo State) proximately related to P. aduncum and P. gaudichaudianum. Although considered a taxonomic novelty, it is already regarded as endangered by the IUCN standards, due to its limited distribution area of about 250 km². We present complete description, taxonomic and geographic notes, and illustrations.

Key words: Atlantic rainforest, Neotropics, radula, taxonomy

Introduction

Piper Linnaeus (1753:28) is the largest genus of Piperaceae, comprising about 2000 species in a pantropical genus (Quijano-Abril et al. 2006, Wanke et al. 2007) that diversified predominantly in the Neotropics (Jaramillo and Manos 2001). Its monophyly was proven by phylogenetic studies, which supported the subdivision of the genus in 10 clades, among them the Radula clade. This group is equivalent to Piper sect. Radula Miquel (1844:426), a section including about 450 neotropical species, easily recognized by their shrubby habit (often herbs or scandent shrubs), leaves pinnately nerved, basally unequal, pubescent, and erect or curved inflorescences, forming banding patterns (Jaramillo & Manos 2001, Jaramillo et al. 2008)

In Brazil 285 species are recorded for Piper (Guimarães et al. 2013), mainly within the Atlantic and Amazon forests. Recent collections from the State Espírito Santo revealed a new species from Piper sect. Radula, described and illustrated here by photos and carefully compared with closely related species.

Taxonomy

Piper delirioi Sarnaglia & E. F. Guim., sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Piper delirioi is characterized by its shrubby habit, pilose-villous stems with hairs up to 2.5 mm long, densely grouped near internodes; ciliate blades and loosely long and scabrous leaf surface adaxially, blade with apex falcate-acuminate; spikes curved, floral bracts round-triangular, subpeltate, marginally fringed with a pilose pedicel; stamens 4; stigmas 3; fruit ca. 1 mm diam., oblong-obovate, the apex depressed and puberulent.

Type:—BRAZIL. Espírito Santo: Santa Maria de Jetibá, PCH Rio Bonito, 650–700m, 20º02'46"S, 40º38'56"W, 2 February 2013, E. J. de Lirio 137 (holotype RB!, isotypes MBML!, VEN!, NY!).

Shrub 1–2.5 m tall, internodes 3.7–5.6 cm, stems ca. 2 mm, terete, pilose-villous with the hairs up to 2.5 mm long, more densely near internodes. Prophylls 0.5–0.6 mm, caducous, villous, lanceolate, apex acute. Leaves alternate, petiole 0.4–0.7 cm long, pilose-villous, with a short basal sheath; blade 11.9–17.5 × 3.8–6.1 cm, ovate, lanceolate or elliptic; base inequilaterally acute or rounded, one side differing from the other by 1–5 mm; apex falcate-acuminate; membranaceous; ciliate; blade with adaxial side slightly scabrous to glabrescent, the abaxial side pilose, more densely along the veins, brown-glandulous; vein pattern eucamptodromous, with 4–5 secondary veins on each side, to about
Etymology:—*Piper delirioi* was named in honour of the collector of the type specimen, the biologist Elton John de Lirio (Rio de Janeiro, Escola Nacional de Botanica Tropical).

Distribution and conservation:—This species is known only from montane region of state of Espirito Santo, Brazil (collections marked by black dots in Fig. 2). It grows in montane rainforest and humid places, near to rivers, at elevations from 650 to 1000 meters. The distribution of *P. delirioi* within Espirito Santo extends to conservation priority areas (Brazil 2007) and two of the five localities of occurrence are outside conservation units. The conservation status of this species would be Endangered (EN) under criteria B2ab (IUCN 2012), known at 5 localities and with an estimated area of occurrence of about 250 km².

Comments:—*Piper delirioi* is characterized by its shrubby habit, pilose-villous stems with hairs up to 2.5 mm long, denser near internodes, ciliate blade and loosely long scabrous adaxial leaf surface. This new species is assigned to *Piper* sect. *radula* and is closely related to *P. aduncum* Linnaeus (1753:29) and *P. gaudichaudianum* Kunth (1840: 639) due to the scabrous adaxial leaf blade surface, the unequal base of the leaf blade, curved spikes, four stamens, three stigmas and oblong-obovate fruits; differing from both in having the hairs denser near to internodes, longer hairs and blade apex falcate-acuminate, among others (table 1).

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<tr>
<th>TABLE 1. Morphological characters for <em>Piper delirioi</em> compared to the closely related species, <em>P. aduncum</em> and <em>P. gaudichaudianum</em>.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Piper delirioi</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stem Indumentum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hair width</td>
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<td>Disposition of hairs in stems</td>
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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Adilio Malavasi and Elton John de Lirio for their help in the field, and the curators and staff of the RB and MBML herbaria. We thank Rafael Felipe de Almeida for reviewing the English of this paper. The first author thanks CAPES for the fellowship granted and last to CNPq for the productivity fellowship granted.

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2699.2006.01501.x

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2006.07.007