



***Drosera magnifica* (Droseraceae): the largest New World sundew, discovered on Facebook**

PAULO MINATEL GONELLA^{1*}, FERNANDO RIVADAVIA² & ANDREAS FLEISCHMANN³

¹ Laboratório de Sistemática Vegetal, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão 277, São Paulo, SP, 05508–900, Brazil; paulogonella@uol.com.br

² Daniel Burnham Ct., San Francisco, CA, 94109, USA; fe_riva@uol.com.br

³ Botanische Staatssammlung München, Menzinger Strasse 67, D-80638 Munich, Germany; fleischmann@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

*author for correspondence

Abstract

Drosera magnifica, a microendemic sundew discovered on a single mountain top in eastern Minas Gerais (southeastern Brazil), is described here as a new species for science. Regarded as the largest New World sundew and one of the three largest *Drosera* species, it was just recently discovered through photographs posted on the social network Facebook. A detailed description, remarks on ecology, habitat, and conservation, a distribution map, line drawings, and photographs are provided, as well as a comparison between the related taxa (*D. graminifolia* and *D. spiralis*). The species is considered Critically Endangered, according to the IUCN Red List categories and criteria.

Key words: carnivorous plants, Critically Endangered, *Drosera graminifolia*, microendemic, new species

Resumo

Drosera magnifica, uma planta carnívora microendêmica do topo de uma única montanha no leste de Minas Gerais, sudeste do Brasil, é aqui descrita como uma nova espécie para a ciência. Considerada como a maior espécie de *Drosera* no Novo Mundo e uma das três maiores do seu gênero, esta foi recentemente descoberta por meio de fotos publicadas na rede social Facebook. Uma descrição detalhada, comentários sobre ecologia, habitat e conservação, um mapa de distribuição, ilustrações e fotografias são fornecidas, além de uma comparação com os táxons relacionados (*D. graminifolia* e *D. spiralis*). A espécie é considerada Criticamente Ameaçada, de acordo com os critérios e categorias da IUCN Red List.

Palavras-chave: Criticamente Ameaçada, *Drosera graminifolia*, espécie nova, microendêmica, plantas carnívoras

Introduction

Internet based image databases have become an important tool for plant enthusiasts and botanists to share their interest and knowledge of species diversity and taxonomy. Photographs are Publicly shared on internet discussion groups hosted by social networks, forums, and other websites, uniting amateurs and professionals in their common interests of plant identification and taxonomy, frequently resulting in the discovery of new regional records. Although, in most cases, specimens for herbarium are not taken of the plants photographed by amateurs, the geographic location data enables further fieldwork by professional taxonomists, resulting in the formal report of the discovery. This remarkable phenomenon has even led to the discovery of new taxa, such as a species of green lacewing (Insecta: Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) described by Winterton *et al.* (2012). Here, we document the first plant species to be recorded as being discovered through photographs on a social network, a remarkable new species of sundew from Brazil.

The genus *Drosera* Linnaeus (1753a: 281) (Droseraceae Salisb.) presents a worldwide distribution with about 250 species (McPherson 2010, Lowrie 2013, Fleischmann 2014) and is currently considered the largest carnivorous plant genus. Over the past decade, several studies have reviewed, re-established and described new *Drosera* taxa from Brazil, which now includes around 30 species in its native flora (Rivadavia 2003, 2008, 2009, Rivadavia *et al.* 2009, 2014,