Erythroxylum riparium (Erythroxylaceae), a new species from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest

THIAGO ARAÚJO1, PEDRO FIASCHI2 & ANDRÉ M. AMORIM3

1 Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Av. Transnordestina, s/n, Novo Horizonte, 44036-900, Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brasil. E-mail: t.araujo.bio@gmail.com
2 Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Centro de Ciências Biológicas, Departamento de Botânica, Campus Universitário – Trindade, 88040-900, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brasil.
3 Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Km 16 rod. Ilhéus-Itabuna, 45600-970, Ilhéus, Bahia, Brasil.

Abstract

Erythroxylum riparium, a new species of Erythroxylaceae from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, is described and illustrated. The species was found in southern Bahia State growing along river banks within tropical rainforest fragments. It can be distinguished from other similar species of Erythroxylum by the combination of branchlets intensely dotted with elliptic lenticels, these often united with each other, undulate leaf margin, three bracteoles per flower, and partially connate styles. These diagnostic characters and other observations concerning the new species are presented and compared with those from similar species.

Key words: Bahia State, Brazil, Malpighiales, taxonomy

Introduction

Erythroxylum Browne (1756: 278) is the largest genus of Erythroxylaceae Kunth (1821: 175) and comprises approximately 240 species, mostly from South America (Daly 2004), where Brazil is home to the highest species diversity and endemism, with 127 species (Plowman & Hensold 2004; Loiola & Costa-Lima 2015). Adding to the comprehensive monograph of Erythroxylaceae for Flora brasiliensis (Peyritsch 1878), several new species of Erythroxylum have been described in the last 30 years, mainly from northeastern Brazil (Plowman 1983, 1986, 1987; Loiola & Sales 2008, 2012; Costa-Lima & Alves 2013, 2015; Loiola & Cordeiro 2014; Costa-Lima et al. 2014). Within this context, Bahia is the state with the largest number of species of Erythroxylum (ca. 50), which are mostly found along sandbanks in forest fragments in the Atlantic Forest domain (Plowman 1987).

Nineteen sections are currently recognized for Erythroxylum (Schulz 1907). These sections can be distinguished mainly by stipule striations, size and shape of the calyx lobes, and styles connecrse. Nine sections occur in the Neotropics, with Archerythroxylum, Heterogyne, Leptogramme, Mastigophorum, Microphyllum, and Megalophyllum having non-striated stipules, while Macrocalyx, Pogonophorum, and Rhabdophyllum have striated stipules. During a taxonomic study of Erythroxylum species occurring in the Atlantic Forest of Bahia State (Araújo et al. 2014), a previously undescribed species was discovered. The characteristics that distinguish this taxon from similar species are presented here.

Taxonomic Treatment

Erythroxylum riparium T. Araújo & Amorim sp. nov. Type:—BRAZIL. Bahia: Itacaré, Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural Capitão, 14°19′12″S, 39°03′44″W, 21 April 2013 (fl, fr), T. Araújo & C. Pessoa 211 (Holotype CEPEC!, Isotype HUEFS!). Figures 1A–K, 2 & 3A–H.