



Erythroxyllum riparium (Erythroxyllaceae), a new species from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest

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Abstract

Erythroxyllum riparium, a new species of Erythroxyllaceae from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, is described and illustrated. The species was found in southern Bahia State growing along river banks within tropical rain forest fragments. It can be distinguished from other similar species of *Erythroxyllum* 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

Erythroxyllum Browne (1756: 278) is the largest genus of Erythroxyllaceae 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 Erythroxyllaceae for *Flora brasiliensis* (Peyritsch 1878), several new species of *Erythroxyllum* 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 *Erythroxyllum* (ca. 50), which are mostly found along sandbanks in forest fragments in the Atlantic Forest domain (Plowman 1987).

Nineteen sections are currently recognized for *Erythroxyllum* (Schulz 1907). These sections can be distinguished mainly by stipule striations, size and shape of the calyx lobes, and styles concrescence. Nine sections occur in the Neotropics, with *Archerythroxyllum*, *Heterogyne*, *Leptogramme*, *Mastigophorum*, *Microphyllum*, and *Megalophyllum* having non-striated stipules, while *Macrocalyx*, *Pogonophorum*, and *Rhabdophyllum* have striated stipules. During a taxonomic study of *Erythroxyllum* 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

Erythroxyllum 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.