



Eugenia membranifolia: a long-forgotten Brazilian Atlantic rainforest Myrtaceae

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Abstract

Eugenia membranifolia Niedenzu, a forgotten name in Brazilian Myrtaceae and presently known only from one isotype, is reported as the correct name for most of the gatherings until now identified as *Eugenia bocainensis*. We provide a detailed description of *E. membranifolia* with comments on its distribution, ecology and conservation status, and compare it with *E. bocainensis*.

Key words: *Eugenia bocainensis*, IUCN Red List, Myrteae, *Phyllocalyx*

Introduction

In the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, Myrtaceae is represented by c. 680 species, which comprise 10–15% of the total of trees by number of species, a higher percentage than any other family (Sobral et al. 2013). Particularly, *Eugenia* Linnaeus (1753: 470) is the richest genus in this biome (Oliveira-Filho & Fontes 2000).

Along visits to herbaria and fieldworks for the preparation of a revision of the species of *Eugenia* sect. *Phyllocalyx* Niedenzu (1893), a section comprising about 26 species, of which several are frequent in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, we spotted a problem concerning a frequently collected species presently identified as *Eugenia bocainensis* Mattos (1974:4) (Sobral 2011, Sobral et al. 2013). Based on the information presented below, we have concluded that all modern specimens assigned to this species indeed belong to *Eugenia membranifolia* Niedenzu (1893:92), presently known only from the type collection, and provide an expanded description of this species, with comments on distribution, ecology and conservation status.

Eugenia membranifolia Niedenzu, Natürl. Pflanzenfam. 3 (7):82. 1893.(Fig.1)

= *Phyllocalyx membranaceus* O. Berg, Fl. Bras. 14(1): 334. 1857. Type:—Brazil, “habitat ad urbem Rio de Janeiro”, Gaudichaud 762 (holotype B f; isotype F!)

Shrubs or trees 1.5–10 m. Blades elliptic, lanceolate or oblanceolate, coriaceous, 8–20 × 2.5–6.5 cm, discolorous, glabrous; translucent glandular dots prominent and visible on both surfaces; apex acuminate; base obtuse or attenuate; midvein sulcate adaxially, raised abaxially; lateral veins 15 to 30 on each side, raised on both sides; marginal veins two, the first ca. 1 mm from the margin and a second vein 2–5 mm from the margin, the margin revolute; petiole 5–7 mm long, canaliculate, glabrous. Flowers solitary; pedicels terminal, rarely axillary, 3–13 mm long, glabrous, rarely puberulent; bracteoles ovate, 4–13 mm long, acute, glabrous or puberulent, frequently ciliate. Flower buds 5–13 mm long, when young ones with white trichomes covering the hypanthium; calyx lobes four, 5–15 mm long, glabrous, extending beyond the petals in bud. Fruits globose, to 5 cm in diameter, glabrous. Seeds one to four.

Specimens examined:—BRAZIL. Paraná: Guaraqueçaba, s/d, *Hatschbach, G. 56137* (ICN, MBM). São Paulo: Cananea: Fazenda Folha Larga: 47°55'S, 24°53'W, 100 alt., 20. Nov. 2006, *Camargo, R. et al. 353* (BHCB!, UEC!); Trilha do Espigão, 47°55'S, 24°53'W, Jan. 2004, *Urbanetz, C. et al. 329* (BHCB!, UEC!); trilha Kaá-Pozanga, 47°55'S,

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