New species and new records of lichens from inselbergs and surrounding Atlantic rain forest in the Chapada Diamantina (Bahia, Brazil)

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Seven species of lichens from the state of Bahia (Brazil) are described as new: Dimelaena mayrhoferiana, Enterographa glaucotremoides, Gassicurtia rhizocarpoides, Hypotrachyna maculata, Lecanora hypofusca, Maronina saxicola, and Myriostigma xanthonicum. In addition, 194 species are reported for the first time from Bahia, 15 of which were not known from Brazil before. Placynthiella oligotropha, which was abundant on soil in a rather dry forest without any other accompanying lichens, is a new record for the southern hemisphere.


Sieben neue Arten von Flechten werden aus dem Staat Bahia (Brasilien) beschrieben: Dimelaena mayrhoferiana, Enterographa glaucotremoides, Gassicurtia rhizocarpoides, Hypotrachyna maculata, Lecanora hypofusca, Maronina saxicola und Myriostigma xanthonicum. Weitere 194 Arten werden neu für Bahia gemeldet; von diesen sind 15 neu für Brasilien. Placynthiella oligotropha, gefunden am Boden in einem Trockenwald, ist neu für die südliche Hemisphere.

Key words: Lichenezid ascomycete, taxonomy, Neotropis.

Introduction

The Chapada Diamantina is an area in the state of Bahia in tropical Brazil. The bedrock is siliceous, geologically mostly Precambrian and it surfaces in many parts in the form of isolated inselbergs, which are surrounded by evergreen forest. These inselbergs are usually only around 500 m higher than the surrounding country, but the climate on the often rather flat tops and the generally very steep slopes differs markedly from that in the valleys, leading to the presence of elfin forest. The natural vegetation of the Chapada Diamantina is evergreen dry tropical forest, belonging to different biomes. viz. Caatinga, Cerrado and Atlantic rain forest (Funch et al. 2008).

Brazil is not unexpectedly turning out to be the country with the world’s richest lichen biota; 4000 lichen species are known to date (Cáceres & Aptroot in prep.), and to this around 200 are added every year, just as in the past five years. Recent lichen exploration in Brazil focused mostly on the southern subtropical states (e.g., Spielmann 2006) and the Amazon region (e.g. Cáceres & Aptroot 2017) and the north-eastern states have received much attention (e.g.