

TAXONOMIC NOVELTIES AND LECTOTYPIFICATIONS IN NEOTROPICAL SPECIES OF *Allophylus* L. (SAPINDACEAE: THOUINIEAE)

Rubens Luiz Gayoso Coelho^{1,2}, Pedro Acevedo-Rodríguez³, Pedro Dias, Thiago Bevilacqua Flores¹ & Maria do Carmo Estanislau do Amaral¹.

¹ Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Departamento de Biologia Vegetal, Caixa Postal 6109, CEP: 13083-970 - Campinas, São Paulo, Brasil. rubenslgc@gmail.com

² Universidade de São Paulo, Escola de Artes, Ciências e Humanidades, CEP: 03828-000 - São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil

³ National Museum of Natural History, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, U.S.A.

Allophylus L. (Thouinieae - Sapindaceae) is a Pantropical genus of trees and shrubs with remarkable morphological homogeneity, and a total of one to 225 species according to taxonomical concepts. In 1934, Radlkofer in his monumental treatment of *Allophylus* recognized 169 species that were placed in informal groups according to their continental distributions. Following Radlkofer's work, numerous species have been described, for an approximate total of 255 species. In contrast, Leenhouts in his synoptical work of *Allophylus* recognized a single polymorphic species referable as *A. cobbe* (L.) Raeusch. This wide discrepancy of opinions regarding the number of recognized taxa was the first indication for the need of a modern taxonomic treatment aimed at understanding species delimitations and their phylogenetic relationships within the genus. In a recent taxonomical study of *Allophylus* by Coelho (2014), the total number of species in the Neotropics was reduced from about 80 to 44, and the Amazon region with a total 25 species was recognized as its main center of distribution. Nomenclatural issues and typifications of names were comprehensively examined, resulting in 34 new synonyms, some of which apply to species with large geographical ranges such as *Allophylus sericeus* (= *A. racemosus*), *A. laevigatus* (= *A. puberulus*); *A. panamensis* and *A. psilospermus* (= *A. punctatus*), *A. camptostachys*, and *A. leptostachys* (= *A. strictus*). Additionally, two names, previously applied as distinctive species due to their trifoliolate leaves, are now considered synonyms of species that were characterized in the past by the presence of unifoliolate leaves: *A. chrysoneurus* (= *A. heterophyllus*) and *A. leucophloeus* (= *A. leucoclados*). In addition, several species have been placed in synonymy due to the continuous morphological variation observed throughout their ranges, making it impossible to maintain the previously recognized taxa (e.g., forms described by Radlkofer). A total of 51 new lectotypes (37 species and 14 forms) were designated in this work, along with comments on nomenclatural issues, morphological relationships of the species, and their geographical distributions within the Neotropics (CNPq & FAPESP 2010/51600-0; 2014/18002-2; 2015/9444-4).

Keywords: *Allophylus*, lectotypifications, synonyms, Sapindaceae, Thouinieae.