



## Velloziaceae in honorem appellatae

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### Abstract

Four new species of *Vellozia* are described and named after people linked to Velloziaceae and Brazilian botany. *Vellozia everaldoi*, *V. giuliettiae*, *V. semirii* and *V. strangii* are endemic to the Diamantina Plateau in Minas Gerais, Brazil. *Vellozia giuliettiae* and *V. semirii* are small species that share characteristics that would assign them to *Vellozia* sect. *Xerophytoides*, which include an ericoid habit with no leaf furrows and six stamens. *Vellozia everaldoi*, although a small, ericoid species, could not be placed in that section because it has conspicuous furrows, although it is considered closely related to species of that section. The fourth species, *V. strangii*, is a relative large species closely related to *V. hatschbachii*. Descriptions and illustrations of the species are followed by a discussion of their characteristics and putative relationships.

**Key words:** Brazil, *campos rupestres*, Espinhaço Range, *Vellozia*, *Vellozia* sect. *Xerophytoides*, *Xerophyta*

### Introduction

*Vellozia* Vandelli (1788: 32) comprises a few more than 100 species endemic to the Neotropics, mostly in relatively dry, rocky or sandy habitats (Mello-Silva 2010, Mello-Silva *et al.* 2011). Following revision of Neotropical members of the family (Smith & Ayensu 1976), several new species have been described (Smith & Ayensu 1979, 1980, Smith 1985a,b, 1986, Menezes 1980a, Menezes & Semir 1991, Mello-Silva & Menezes 1988, 1999a,b, Mello-Silva 1991a, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2004a, in press, Alves 1992, 2002, Alves *et al.* 2014, Ibisch *et al.* 2001), probably indicating a large number of species yet to be discovered. Factors that led to this result are the restricted distribution of most of the species and the difficulty of accessing large areas of central Brazil (Mello-Silva & Menezes 1999a). The four species described here are endemic to the Diamantina Plateau in the southern portion of the Espinhaço Range in Minas Gerais State, Brazil, an undoubtedly rich area (Giulietti *et al.* 1997) where the family has achieved its maximum diversity (Menezes 1980b, Mello-Silva 2004b, 2010). Three of these are inconspicuous species, although forming dense populations on rocky outcrops, but one is a showy and locally abundant species. They are all named after distinguished Brazilian botanists and/or people linked to Velloziaceae. One of the drawings is by Rogério Lupo, a Margaret Flockton Award recipient.

### Taxonomic Treatment

*Vellozia everaldoi* N.L.Menezes, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 5A)

*Vellozia everaldoi* differs from all other species of *Vellozia* by its aquiferous hypodermis extending to furrows only. It is closer to *V. taxifolia* but differs from it by its arcuate leaves.

**Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Gouveia, Fazenda Contagem, 13 km à direita da rodovia Curvelo-Diamantina, 29 August 1981 (fl, fr), Giulietti, Semir, Menezes, Giulietti & Mattos CFCR1760 (holotype SPF!, isotypes K!, L!, NY, RB!, SP!, US).

Solitary, ericoid herbs, 5–25 cm tall. Stem much branched, to 1 cm diam. at base and 2–3 mm diam. at apex. Leaves spirotristichous, arcuate, sheaths brown, stramineous with serrate margins at apex, lamina 6.0–18.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, linear-triangular, conduplicate and semiterete at distal half or third when dry, glabrous, soon deciduous, the margins

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