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***Drosera magnifica* (Droseraceae): the largest New World sundew, discovered on Facebook**

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Abstract

Drosera magnifica, a microendemic sundew discovered on a single mountain top in eastern Minas Gerais (southeastern Brazil), is described here as a new species for science. Regarded as the largest New World sundew and one of the three largest *Drosera* species, it was just recently discovered through photographs posted on the social network Facebook. A detailed description, remarks on ecology, habitat, and conservation, a distribution map, line drawings, and photographs are provided, as well as a comparison between the related taxa (*D. graminifolia* and *D. spiralis*). The species is considered Critically Endangered, according to the IUCN Red List categories and criteria.

Key words: carnivorous plants, Critically Endangered, *Drosera graminifolia*, microendemic, new species

Resumo

Drosera magnifica, uma planta carnívora microendêmica do topo de uma única montanha no leste de Minas Gerais, sudeste do Brasil, é aqui descrita como uma nova espécie para a ciência. Considerada como a maior espécie de *Drosera* no Novo Mundo e uma das três maiores do seu gênero, esta foi recentemente descoberta por meio de fotos publicadas na rede social Facebook. Uma descrição detalhada, comentários sobre ecologia, habitat e conservação, um mapa de distribuição, ilustrações e fotografias são fornecidas, além de uma comparação com os táxons relacionados (*D. graminifolia* e *D. spiralis*). A espécie é considerada Criticamente Ameaçada, de acordo com os critérios e categorias da IUCN Red List.

Palavras-chave: Criticamente Ameaçada, *Drosera graminifolia*, espécie nova, microendêmica, plantas carnívoras

Introduction

Internet based image databases have become an important tool for plant enthusiasts and botanists to share their interest and knowledge of species diversity and taxonomy. Photographs are Publicly shared on internet discussion groups hosted by social networks, forums, and other websites, uniting amateurs and professionals in their common interests of plant identification and taxonomy, frequently resulting in the discovery of new regional records. Although, in most cases, specimens for herbarium are not taken of the plants photographed by amateurs, the geographic location data enables further fieldwork by professional taxonomists, resulting in the formal report of the discovery. This remarkable phenomenon has even led to the discovery of new taxa, such as a species of green lacewing (Insecta: Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) described by Winterton *et al.* (2012). Here, we document the first plant species to be recorded as being discovered through photographs on a social network, a remarkable new species of sundew from Brazil.

The genus *Drosera* Linnaeus (1753a: 281) (Droseraceae Salisb.) presents a worldwide distribution with about 250 species (McPherson 2010, Lowrie 2013, Fleischmann 2014) and is currently considered the largest carnivorous plant genus. Over the past decade, several studies have reviewed, re-established and described new *Drosera* taxa from Brazil, which now includes around 30 species in its native flora (Rivadavia 2003, 2008, 2009, Rivadavia *et al.* 2009, 2014,

Rivadavia & Gonella 2011, Gonella *et al.* 2012, 2014). Despite this high diversity, only fourteen species of *Drosera* are listed in the online database “Lista da Flora do Brasil” (Silva 2015), which requires urgent reconsideration.

Gonella *et al.* (2012) recently recovered *D. spiralis* Saint-Hilaire (1826: 270) from the synonymy of *D. graminifolia* Saint-Hilaire (1826: 269), following the taxonomic species concept originally proposed by Saint-Hilaire (1826). Meanwhile, in October 2012, an orchid enthusiast posted a picture of another thread-leaved sundew on the internet-based social network Facebook (see Acknowledgements). The picture, showing plants at the beginning of anthesis, was picked up by carnivorous plant enthusiasts in September 2013, and examined by the authors. The photographer was contacted and he kindly provided further images and location data. Although the two pictures available were of very low resolution, the broad and seemingly sessile (non-petiolate) leaves, together with the divergent geographic location provided, clearly indicated that this population required further investigation.

Less than three months after first viewing these pictures online, a field trip was carried out, and healthy populations of the plant were successfully located. Peculiar morphological characteristics of the plants led us to describe them as a new species to science.

Material & Methods

Field surveys were carried out by the two first authors (P.M.G. and F.R.) in late November 2013 and mid July 2014, when the type location and two other nearby peaks were also explored. Further field observations were provided by the discoverer of the new sundew, from trips in October 2012 and May 2014 (Reginaldo Vasconcelos, pers. comm.). No preceding herbarium collections of the taxon are known. The collected specimens were examined under stereo dissecting microscope and the description was based on fresh, dried and spirit material.

The distribution map was prepared using georeferenced location data obtained during our field observations and, for *D. graminifolia* and *D. spiralis*, based on the results by Gonella *et al.* (2012), and generated with DIVA-GIS (Hijmans *et al.* 2005).

The herbarium abbreviations cited through the text follow Thiers (2015).

Taxonomic Treatment

Drosera magnifica Rivadavia & Gonella, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–4)

Type:—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Conselheiro Pena, Pico do Padre Ângelo, 1530 m, 28 November 2013, *Gonella & Rivadavia 645* (holotype SPF!, isotypes BHCB!, MO!, P!, RB!, SPF!).

Diagnosis:—*Drosera magnifica* differs from *D. graminifolia* and *D. spiralis* by the long prostrate or ascending stems up to 123.5 cm long; by the higher number of active leaves per rosette, which are sessile and broader linear-lanceolate in shape, 100–240 × 3–8 mm, with circinate-involute vernation (lateral margins of lamina involute in bud), entirely lacking glandular trichomes, with a raised midrib on the adaxial surface extending from base to $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ of the leaf length, the adaxial surface with a short, triangular to narrowly triangular tentacle-free zone at the base that is eglandular-pilose, and the mature leaves with revolute margins; by multiple-branched inflorescences (branched scorpioid cymes), covered with stalked glandular trichomes 0.1–0.4(–0.5) mm long; and by the larger fusiform seeds 1–1.2 mm long.

Description:—*Perennial* rosetted herbs, caulescent; *stem* well-developed, up to 123.5 cm long, prostrate or ascending (supported by surrounding vegetation), often apically branching once and with basal sprouts, covered by the persistent dead leaves (70–100 mm between inflorescences from different years). *Roots* succulent, black, sparsely branched, densely covered by root hairs. *Indumentum* consisting of white (drying gold colored) eglandular trichomes up to 4 mm long, occurring on the base of the adaxial leaf surface, whole abaxial leaf surface, scape, bracts, pedicels and sepals; stalked glandular capitate trichomes 0.1–0.4(–0.5) mm long on scapes, bracts, pedicels and sepals; minute sessile glands ca. 0.03 mm in diameter on both leaf surfaces, scapes, bracts, pedicels and sepals. *Leaves* 100–240 × 3–8 mm, active leaves 7–18 per rosette, linear-lanceolate, apex acute, vernation circinate-involute (regular or irregular), lamina of mature leaves with revolute margins, green in color, erect to semi-erect, with a raised midrib on adaxial surface extending from base to approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ of length (less conspicuous in dried specimens), leaves becoming reflexed and drying curled when old; *petioles* absent in mature plants (leaves sessile), but often distinct in juvenile plantlets; *lamina* comprising the entire leaf length, with the abaxial surface densely eglandular-pubescent, especially

towards the margins, and covered with numerous sessile glands, while the adaxial surface is covered with numerous sessile glands and red, carnivorous, capitate tentacles with radial symmetric gland heads, except for a triangular to narrowly-triangular tentacle-free zone of 7–45 × 2–7 mm at the base, which is densely to sparsely eglandular-pilose, but glabrous at the very base; *stipules* 8–15 mm long, 3.5–9.0 mm wide at the base, triangular, membranaceous, translucent bronze-gold in color (sometimes whitish to reddish), apex acute and fimbriate. *Scapes* 1 per plant (in plants with forked stems, one scape per rosette), terete, hollow, base erect and 2–5 mm in diameter, 165–350 mm in total length (including floriferous part; the peduncle 120–225 mm long), densely pilose, covered with glandular and eglandular trichomes, the indumentum becoming denser towards the apex; *inflorescence* in a multiple-branched scorpioid cyme, with (2–)6–10(–14) branches, green to reddish-green in color, bearing 17–190 flowers, often with 1–4 larger bracts not supporting a flower at the base of the rachis (“sterile bracts”), 7–12 mm long, linear; *floral bracts* caducous, 4–6 mm long, linear-lanceolate to ovate, usually absent, densely glandular and eglandular-pilose on the abaxial surface; *pedicels* 2.5–7.0 mm long, inserted 2–7 mm apart from each other, densely glandular and eglandular-pilose; *sepals* 5, pinkish-red when in bud and during anthesis, greenish when in fruit, 4.5–8.0 mm long, 2.2–3.0 mm wide, oblong-obovate to ovate, united at basal 1/4–1/5 of length, densely glandular-pilose and sparsely eglandular-pilose, apex rounded to broadly acute; *petals* 5, 8–10 mm long, 6–8 mm wide, obovate, light pink; *stamens* 5, ca. 3.5 mm long, filaments white, anthers 1.5–1.8 mm long, bithecate, yellow; *ovary* 1.2–1.5 mm in diameter at anthesis, 3-carpellate, globose, rounded in outline, green; *styles* 3, forked at the base, 4.0–4.8 mm long including stigmas, stigmas simple or bilobed, pinkish-white in color; *fruit* a dry capsule, 1.5–2.5 mm long, globose, 3-valvate. *Seeds* fusiform, 1.0–1.2 × 0.2–0.3 mm, testa reticulate, dark brown.

Etymology:—The epithet “*magnifica*” refers to the magnificent appearance of this new species, which has remained undiscovered until so recently, even though it is one of the three most robust species of the genus and largest sundew in the New World.

Distribution and habitat:—*Drosera magnifica* is a microendemic species, so far only known to occur on the summit of the Pico do Padre Ângelo, in the municipality of Conselheiro Pena, eastern Minas Gerais state, Brazil (Figs. 1, 3A). The new species occurs on sandstone outcrops among herbaceous and shrubby vegetation in a vegetation type intermediate between *campos rupestres* (“rocky fields”) and *campos de altitude* (“highland fields”), in a narrowly defined habitat at elevations around 1500–1530 m (Fig. 3). Plants grew mostly in soil composed of a very loose layer of organic matter mixed with sand over sandstone, or more rarely in cracks of bare sandstone.

On the Pico do Padre Ângelo, *D. magnifica* was observed to occur mostly at a single site on the south slope of the summit, with thousands of plants concentrated in an area of about 50 × 50 m (Fig. 3B). This slope is approximately at a 45-degree angle and receives significant moisture in the form of condensation from uplift winds. Two smaller subpopulations were seen on gentle slopes on the north side of the summit, distant ca. 200 m and 300 m from the main population, and bearing around 10 and 100 individuals, respectively.

Typical members of the altitude vegetation growing together with *D. magnifica* are: the subshrub *Baccharis platypoda* Candolle (1836: 409) (Asteraceae), the bromeliad *Vriesea sanctaparecidae* Leme (2013: 45) (Bromeliaceae), as well as other species belonging to Asteraceae, Bromeliaceae, Melastomataceae, Orchidaceae, Rubiaceae, mosses and lichens (Fig. 3). Although a few pockets of *Sphagnum* Linnaeus (1753b: 1106) moss were observed in the area, *D. magnifica* was not found growing with it, but only next to it.

Because of their proximity and similar elevation, the Pico da Aliança (ca. 1440 m, 10 km to the southwest) and Pico do Pinhão (ca. 1430 m, 5 km to the north) were also explored, but these were found to be comparatively drier and no *D. magnifica* populations were located. The only other peak in the vicinity likely to harbor *D. magnifica* is the Pico do Sossego (ca. 1550 m, 7 km to the north), which is still unexplored botanically.

Phenology:—The available data indicates that the flowering period of *D. magnifica* is comprised between late dry season and early wet season (from October to December), with only a single inflorescence produced per mature rosette. No plants were seen in flower in May or July, when only dry old scapes were observed.

Conservation Status:—Critically Endangered: CR B1ab(iii) + B2ab(iii). *Drosera magnifica* is a microendemic species, currently known to occur on a single mountain summit where it is locally abundant, but restricted to a fragile and isolated habitat.

Habitat degradation was observed along most of the summit trail, caused by coffee and eucalypt plantations (Fig. 3A), cattle ranching, and invasive species of grasses, such as “capim gordura” [*Melinis minutiflora* Palisot de Beauvois (1812: 54)], *Brachiaria* (Trinius 1826: 39) Grisebach (1853: 469) (Poaceae), and the fern *Pteridium arachnoideum* (Kaulfuss 1824: 190) Maxon (1924: 89) (Dennstaedtiaceae). Because of its highly restricted occurrence as well as the observed and projected decline of habitat quality, *D. magnifica* is here listed as Critically Endangered (CR) according to the criteria of IUCN (2012).

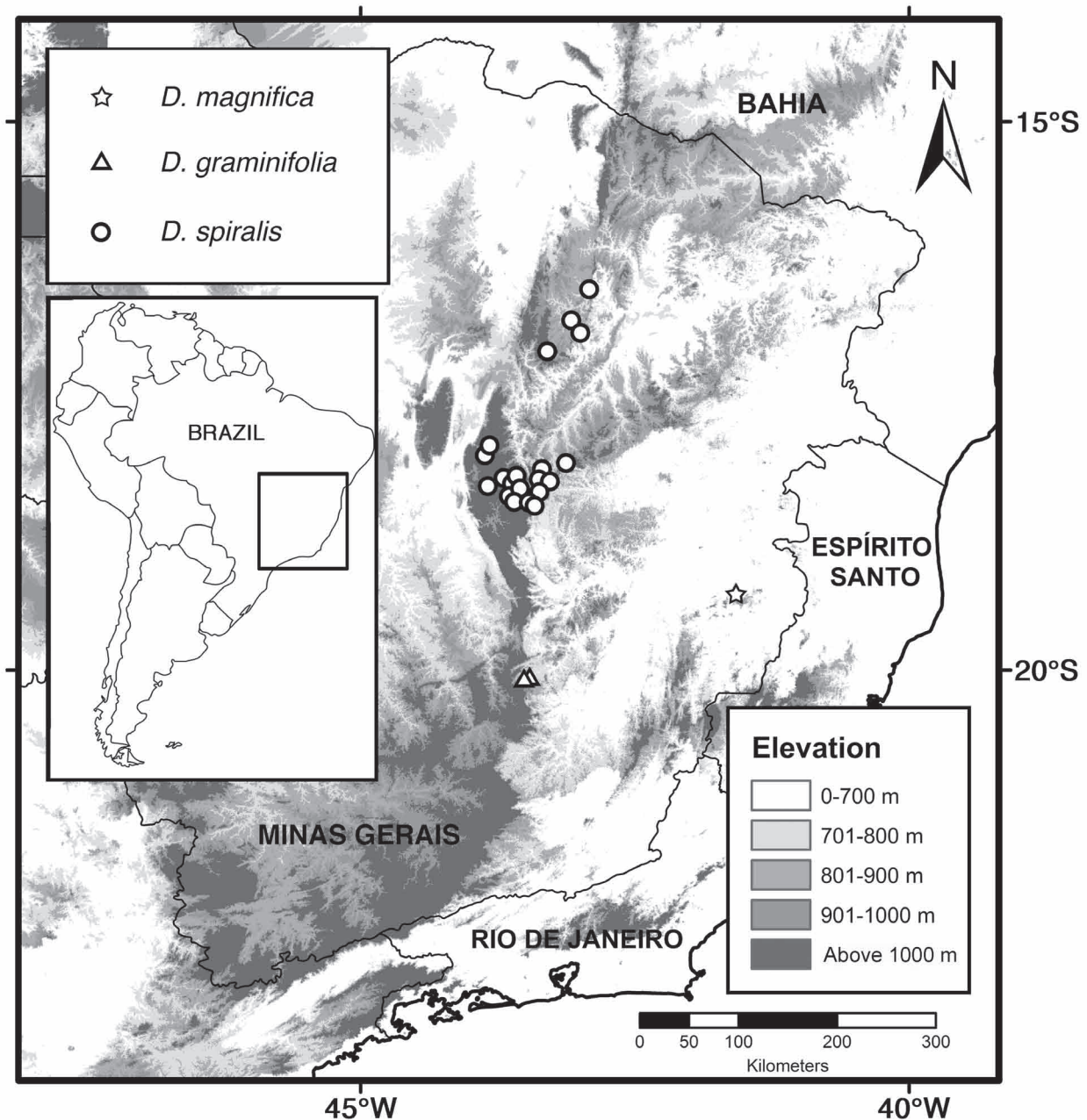


FIGURE 1. Distribution area of *D. magnifica* (star), *D. graminifolia* (triangles) and *D. spiralis* (circles).

The Pico do Padre Ângelo and surrounding mountains (including the Serra do Pinhão and Pico da Aliança) should be a priority aim for conservation, as they contain some of the very last remaining areas of eastern Minas Gerais that are not completely degraded, and which harbor a unique and still very poorly-known biodiversity. The surrounding lowlands have been heavily deforested over the past century and only small patches of rainforest remain between cattle ranches and family farms. The species-rich and fragile *campos rupestres* found on these highlands harbor narrowly endemic taxa, such as the recently described bromeliads *Alcantarea nana* Leme (2014: 72), *A. occulta* Leme (2013: 10) and *Vriesea sanctaparecidae* (Leme & Kollmann 2013, Leme *et al.* 2014), as well as the orchid *Cattleya alvarenguensis* (Campacci 2014: 382) Berg (2014: 84), among several other still undescribed species (pers. obs.).

Ecological notes:—All observed specimens of *D. magnifica* show a well-developed stem (Fig. 2A), usually prostrate, but often erect and supported by surrounding shrubby vegetation, reaching 30–40 cm above the soil surface (Fig. 3C–F). Stems were frequently observed to branch once (rarely more), and new growing tips were frequently seen sprouting from the stem bases (Fig. 3F). In some cases, young plantlets were also observed emerging from roots. Not a single seedling was found during either of our visits, which is surprising considering the numerous flowers and the large quantity of seed produced by *D. magnifica*.

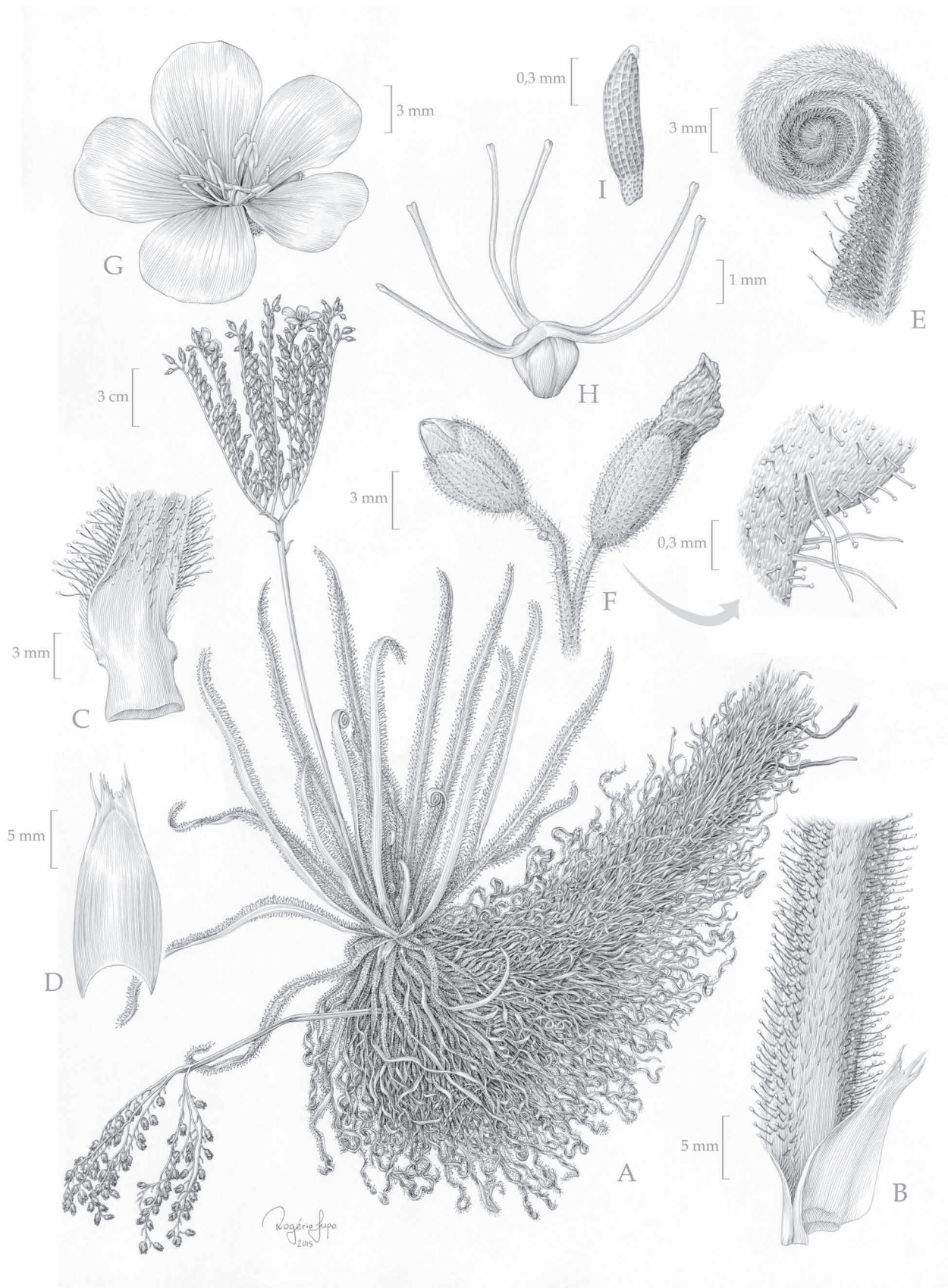


FIGURE 2. *Drosera magnifica* (based on the holotype). **A)** habitus, showing an erect inflorescence at anthesis as well as two prostrate dead ones, the older entangled by the remains of dead leaves. **B)** leaf base, adaxial surface. **C)** leaf base, abaxial surface. **D)** stipule. **E)** immature leaf, with regular circinate-involute venation. **F)** apex of an inflorescence branch, with a spent flower and a flower bud, the arrow indicating a detail of the indumentum on the pedicel and calyx, composed by eglandular trichomes, long-stalked glandular trichomes and sessile glands. **G)** flower. **H)** gynoecium. **I)** seed (drawing by Rogério Lupo).

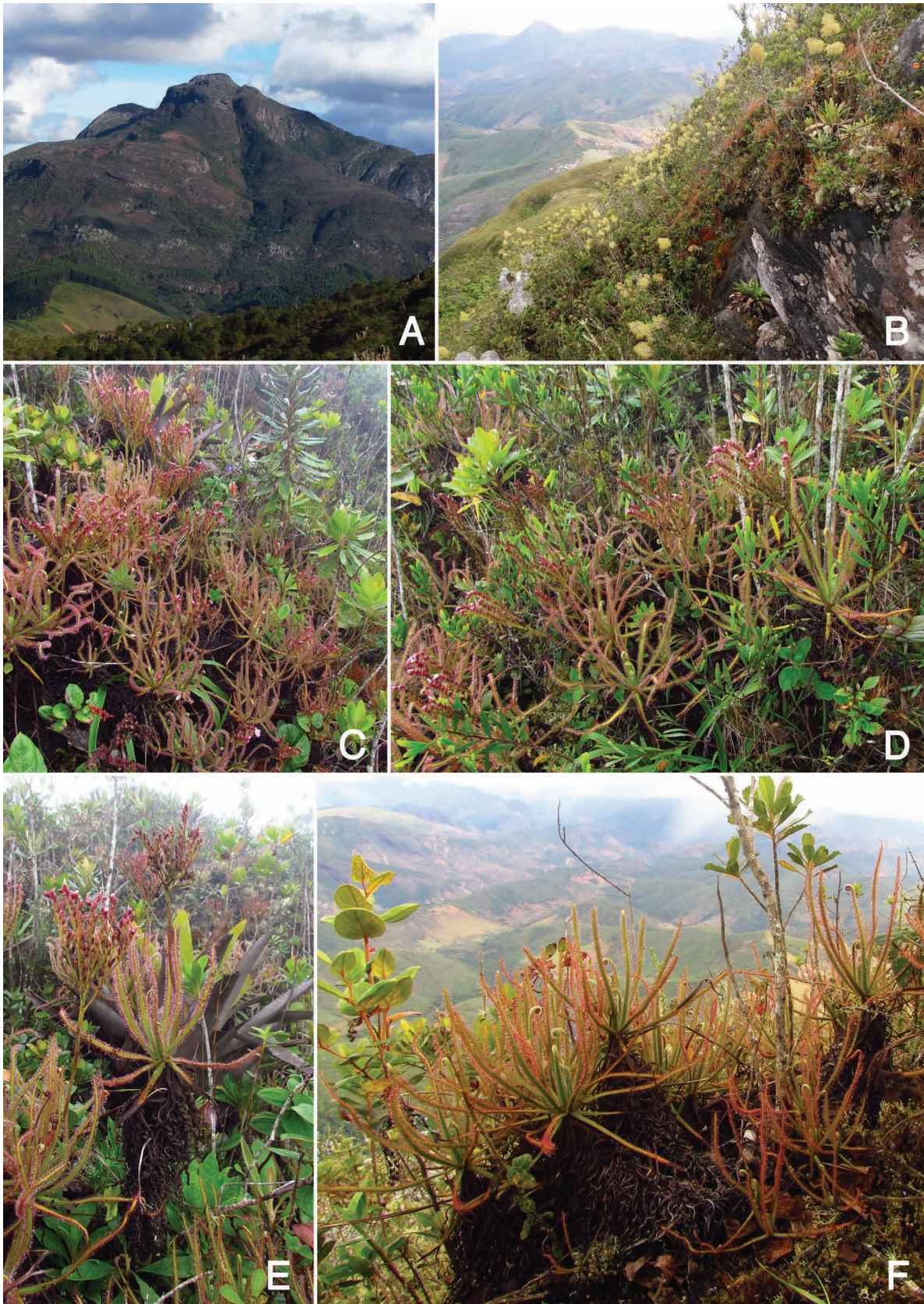


FIGURE 3. A) View of the Pico do Padre Ângelo, eastern Minas Gerais state, Brazil, with coffee and eucalypt plantations visible near the base. B) high-montane habitat of *D. magnifica*, among rocks and shrubs, with the Pico da Aliança in the background. C–D) numerous flowering individuals with stems prostrate or ascending; the large specimen on the right side of figure D is the holotype. E) specimen with ascending stem supported by surrounding vegetation. F) group of individuals with long stems, first prostrate then ascending, covered by remains of dead leaves, with smaller rosettes sprouting from the stem bases (bottom right). (A, C–F by P.M. Gonella; B by F. Rivadavia).

Large numbers of insects (mostly from Hymenoptera: Terebrantia, as well as small Coleoptera, Diptera, and Lepidoptera) were observed stuck on the leaves of *D. magnifica* in November and May, but not as many in July. Nutrition obtained from the abundant prey may be an important factor in sustaining the surprising robustness of this new species as well as the fast growth rate (see below), since it grows in very scarce and structured soil over sandstone.

Acephalous dipteran larvae were observed on many specimens of *D. magnifica*, hidden among the young leaves, as were also their pupae on the abaxial leaf surfaces. Similar dipteran larvae have previously also been observed by F.R. to live on the leaves of the related *D. spiralis* (pictured as living on “*D. graminifolia*” in McPherson 2010).

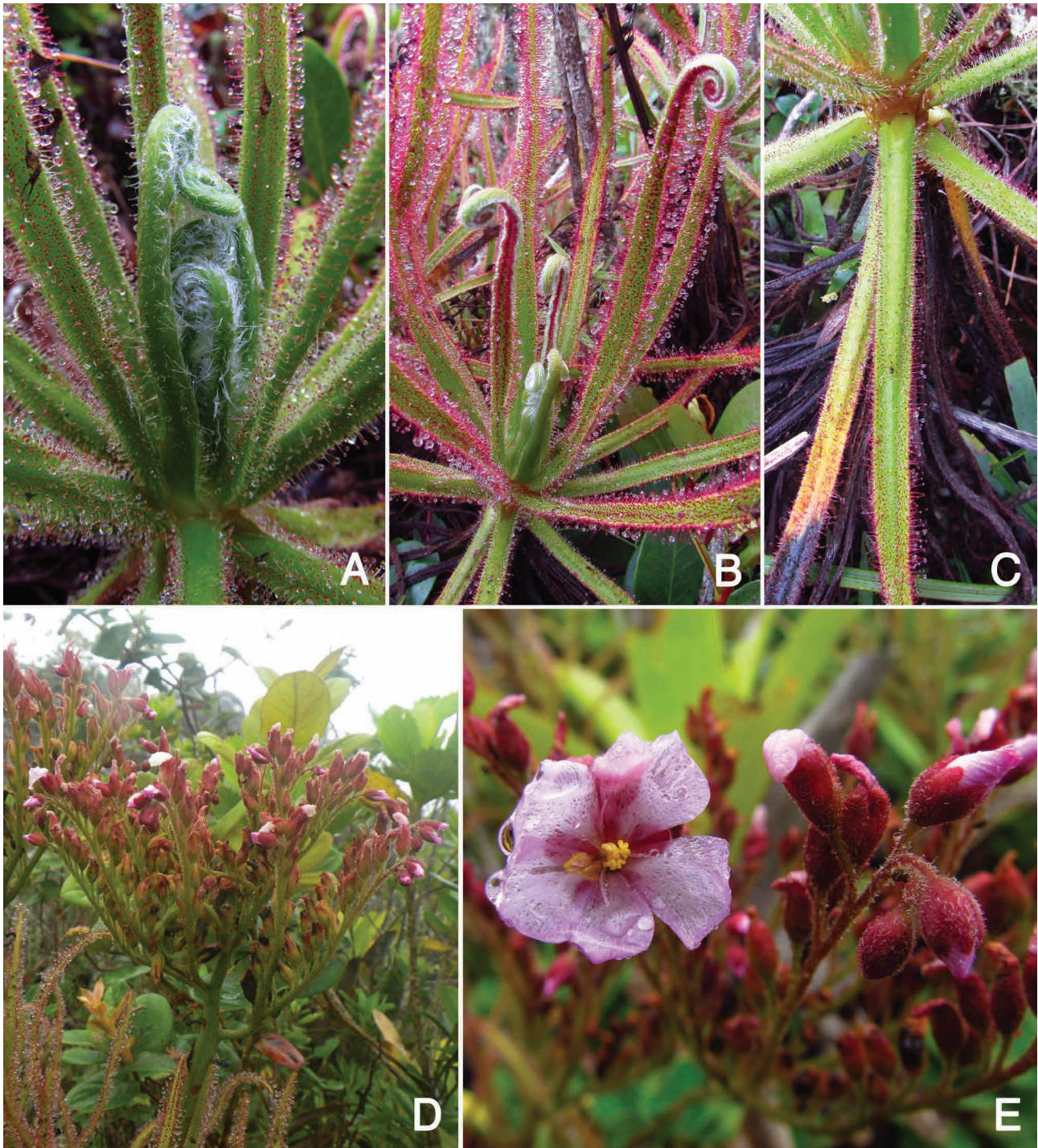


FIGURE 4. *Drosera magnifica*. **A–B)** detail of the center of the rosette, showing the numerous young leaves with both regular and irregular circinate-involute venation and densely glandular-pilose abaxially **C)** adaxial surface of a leaf base, with a narrowly triangular tentacle free zone and a prominent midrib; notice the large bronze-gold stipules. **D)** detail of the multiple-branched scorpioid cyme. **E)** flower, flower buds and spent flowers. (A–C, E by P.M. Gonella; D by F. Rivadavia).

Additional specimens examined

Drosera magnifica (paratypes)—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Conselheiro Pena, Pico do Padre Ângelo, 1530 m, 08 July 2014, Gonella *et al.* 675 (SPF, M).

Drosera graminifolia—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Crescit in summis montibus dictis Serra-da-Caraça; alt. circiter 6000 ped., February, *Saint-Hilaire B1-448* (P, holotype); Serra do Caraça, December 1830, *Sellow 1300* (B, holotype of *D. graminifolia* var. *major* Eichl. in Mart. & Eichl.).

Drosera spiralis—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Crescit in montibus dictis Serra de Curumatahy, ad rivulum Corgo Novo, in parte provinciae Minas Geraes dicta Distrito dos Diamantes, *Saint-Hilaire B1-2021bis* (P; holotype); Tejuco (Serro Frio) [currently Diamantina], May, *Martius 1287* (M; original material of *D. brasiliensis*); inter Tejuco et Bandeirinhas, May, *Martius s.n.* (M).

Discussion

Drosera magnifica belongs to the *D. graminifolia* alliance (Gonella *et al.* 2012), which now comprises three species: *D. graminifolia*, *D. spiralis*, and *D. magnifica* (Table 1).

TABLE 1. Comparative diagnostic characters between *D. graminifolia*, *D. spiralis* and *D. magnifica* (data partially based on Gonella *et al.* 2012).

	<i>D. graminifolia</i>	<i>D. spiralis</i>	<i>D. magnifica</i>
Stem length (cm)	Up to 6(–15)	Up to 10	Up to 123.5
Stipule length (mm)	7–14	14–22(–30)	8–15
Number of active leaves per rosette	5–10	2–6	7–18
Eglandular trichomes on the abaxial surface of the leaves (mm in length)	Long, 3–5	Short, 0.5–1.5	Long, up to 4
Glandular trichomes (type and size)	Translucent-yellow short-stalked multicellular globose trichomes, 0.1–0.12 mm in diameter	Long-stalked, 0.1–0.5 mm long and capitate	Long-stalked, 0.1–0.4(–0.5) mm long and capitate
Glandular trichomes on leaves (other than sessile glands)	Present	Present	Absent
Leaf vernation	Regular circinate	Irregular circinate	Regular and irregular circinate-involute
Cross section at leaf base	Very narrowly transversely elliptic (flat)	Semicircular to transversely elliptic	Transversely elliptic in the center, with revolute narrow margins
Petiole length (mm)	30–40(–47)	5–30	Petiole absent
Lamina width (mm)	1.2–3(–3.5)	0.6–2.8	3–8
Number of branches per inflorescence	1–2	1–2(–8)	(2–)6–10(–14)
Tentacles on sepals	Absent	Often sparsely present	Absent
Seed shape and length (mm)	Oblong-fusiform, 0.65–0.8	Ovoid, 0.6–0.65	Fusiform, 1–1.2
Main flowering period	January to April	April to December	October to December
Habitat	High-montane, intermediate between <i>campo rupestre</i> and <i>campo de altitude</i>	<i>Campos rupestres</i> of montane regions	High-montane, intermediate between <i>campo rupestre</i> and <i>campo de altitude</i>
Elevation (m a.s.l.)	(1700–)1800–1950	700–1500	Around 1500–1530
Distribution area	Endemic to Serra do Caraça, southern Espinhaço Range, central Minas Gerais	Widespread from Diamantina to Grão Mogol, central Espinhaço Range, central-northern Minas Gerais	Micro-endemic to the Pico do Padre Ângelo, eastern Minas Gerais

Drosera magnifica is most reminiscent of *D. graminifolia*, sharing a similar narrowly restricted high-montane habitat, as well as the comparatively small stipules (Fig. 2B, D; notably larger in *D. spiralis*), the eglandular indumentum consisting of long and evident white trichomes present on the leaves (Fig. 2C, E), and a fusiform seed shape (Fig. 2I). Morphological similarities with *D. spiralis* are: the reduced petiole (completely absent on the sessile leaves of flowering-size specimens of *D. magnifica*), the presence of stalked glandular trichomes on the inflorescence parts (Fig. 2F; instead of translucent-yellow short-stalked multicellular globose trichomes), and the tendency to have multiple-branched cymes (usually fewer branches in *D. spiralis*).

Drosera magnifica differs from both *D. graminifolia* and *D. spiralis* by the presence of a pronounced, long stem (Fig. 2A) reaching an observed length of 123.5 cm, the rosettes with more numerous active leaves that are broader, sessile (Fig. 2B), linear-lanceolate in shape and 3–8 mm in width [vs. few-leaved rosettes, leaves linear and up to 3(–3.5) mm wide], the circinate-involute leaf vernation (Fig. 2E; vs. circinate vernation), the lack of glandular trichomes on leaves other than sessile glands (translucent-yellow short-stalked multicellular globose trichomes in *D. graminifolia* and stalked trichomes in *D. spiralis*), the revolute leaf margins on mature leaves (Fig. 2C; vs. not revolute), the raised midrib on adaxial leaf surface extending from base to approximately 1/3–1/2 of length (Fig. 4C), the more frequently branched floriferous part of the inflorescence (Figs. 2A, 4D), and the larger seeds 1.0–1.2 mm long (up to 0.8 mm in the two other species).

Among South-American taxa, circinate-involute leaf vernation is a unique characteristic of *D. magnifica*. In this type of vernation, the young leaf is coiled along its entire length and the lateral margins are folded inwards (Figs. 2E, 4A, B). The only other *Drosera* known to present this rare kind of leaf vernation are the Australian *D. adelae* Mueller (1864: 154), and *D. schizandra* Diels (1906: 80), as well as the South-African *D. regia* Stephens (1926: 309). These three species are only distantly related to *D. magnifica*, even though *D. adelae* and *D. regia* possess similarly-shaped leaves. Whereas in *D. graminifolia* the young leaves have regular circination and in *D. spiralis* these are irregularly circinate, in *D. magnifica* both regular and irregular circination were observed on young leaves, even on the same individual.

Drosera magnifica is the largest representative of the genus in the New World, with flowering specimens reaching a total of over 1.5 m in length. In terms of total biomass, it may only be rivaled by the South African relict species *D. regia* and the Australian tuberous sundew *D. gigantea* Lindley (1839: 88).

Reaching at least 123.5 cm in length, the stems of *D. magnifica* are by far the longest of any New World *Drosera* species, followed by *D. chrysolepis* Taubert (1893: 505) at the Serra do Cipó, observed to reach 46 cm. The adult stem growth rate of *D. magnifica* can be estimated at approximately 7–10 cm per year, by measuring the distance between live inflorescences and dead remains of old scapes from previous years still attached to the stems (estimated in 7–8 cm per year in *D. chrysolepis*). This growth rate suggests that the largest observed specimens of *D. magnifica* were around 12–17 years old. However, plants may be older than this, since it is not possible to know whether older parts of the stems were not present due to decomposition. Also, the growth rate of juvenile plants is not known.

The highly branched candelabra-like inflorescences of *D. magnifica* (Figs. 2A, 4D), with up to 190 flowers and 14 branches each are also unique among New World sundews (*D. spiralis* comes closest, with up to 90 flowers and 8 branches). This is only matched by Australian tuberous species of *Drosera* subgenus *Ergaleium* and by *D. binata*, which have all double or multiple scorpioid cymes (Diels 1906, Troll 1964).

During the herbarium study for the current work, two misplaced specimens collected by Martius and belonging to the *D. graminifolia* alliance were located at M, including material that Martius identified with the manuscript name “*Drosera brasiliensis*”. That name was never validly published by Martius, however it was cited later as a synonym of *D. graminifolia* by Eichler (1872) (see Gonella *et al.* 2012). Both specimens are here identified as *D. spiralis* and listed above.

Conclusions

Drosera magnifica brings the current count of *Drosera* species in Brazil to 31 (Gonella *et al.*, unpubl. data), more than twice the number listed in the online checklist of the “Lista da Flora do Brasil” (Silva 2015), which clearly needs an urgent revision. The surprising and rather casual discovery on a social network of a previously uncollected new *Drosera* species which is the largest in the New World and one of the three largest in the genus, from a region which is by no means remote from large cities nor of difficult access, should raise an important conservation alarm about how understudied the native Brazilian flora still is in the XXI century, and how much unknown biodiversity may still be at risk of extinction before it is even discovered.

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