



## A new species of *Lepidaploa* (Asteraceae: Vernonieae) from Minas Gerais State, Brazil

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### Abstract

*Lepidaploa scintillans* is described as a new species from the Minas Gerais State in southeastern Brazil. This new species can be easily distinguished from other *Lepidaploa* species by the sericeous, nacreous-argent indumentum of both leaf surfaces and by the subpaleaceous outer pappus, which are unusual features in this genus.

**Key words:** Compositae, Lepidaploinae, new taxon, taxonomy

### Introduction

Vernonieae Cassini (1819: 203) contains 126 genera and approximately 1500 species, mostly in tropical parts of the world (Keeley & Robinson 2009). Vernonieae has variable growth habits, ranging from small, scapose herbs to large trees (Bremer 1994). This variation led to the taxonomic history of the tribe to change over time, especially concerning the core genus *Vernonia* Schreber (1791: 541) (Robinson 1999, Keeley & Robinson 2009).

A number of genera were segregated from *Vernonia* which now is a small genus mainly restricted to North America (Keeley & Robinson 2009). The segregated genera include *Lepidaploa* Cassini (1817: 66) Cassini (1825: 20) and *Lessingianthus* Robinson (1988: 939), the largest genera of Vernonieae in the New World (Robinson 1999).

*Lepidaploa* was firstly described as a subgenus of *Vernonia* (Cassini 1817). Afterwards, Cassini (1825) considered *Lepidaploa* at the generic level. Candolle (1836) did not recognize *Lepidaploa* as a genus, placing it as section VIII of *Vernonia*. Baker (1873) maintained *Lepidaploa* as a section of *Vernonia*, including the majority of Brazilian species. Lastly, Robinson (1990) again raised *Lepidaploa* to the generic level, based on macromorphological, micromorphological, palynological and cytological features.

The genus *Lepidaploa* comprises about 150 species widely distributed in South America (Angulo *et al.* 2012). *Lepidaploa* is distinguished from the remaining American members of the tribe by the sessile heads, which have 1.3–3 times more involucre bracts than flowers, no glands on the anther appendages, nodular style bases, sometimes glanduliferous cypsela, cypsela wall with prismatic crystals, pollen type C, D or G, and basic chromosome number  $x=14$ , 15 or 16 (Robinson 1990, Keeley & Robinson 2009, Marques & Dematteis 2014, Via do Pico *et al.* 2016).

In this article we propose a new species of *Lepidaploa* from the Minas Gerais State, Brazil. This new species, *L. scintillans*, is illustrated and its affinities are discussed.

### Material and Methods

#### *Description and illustration*

This study was based on macromorphology and micromorphology analysis of the type specimens deposited at MBM and CTES herbaria. The line drawings were done under camera lucida with a Leica MZ6 stereo microscope.

#### *Micromorphological analysis*

For micromorphological studies, floral parts were softened in boiling water and dissected under a stereo-microscope.

Afterward, samples were mounted in Hoyer's solution (Anderson 1954, King & Robinson 1970), and then examined with a Zeiss Axioplan.

#### *Palynological analysis*

Pollen samples were obtained by removing one or two florets from herbarium specimens and acetolyzed according to Erdtman (1966). For light microscopy (LM), pollen grains were mounted on glass slides using glycerine jelly and subsequently examined with a Zeiss Axioplan. This material was deposited at the collection of the Palynological Laboratory of the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (PAL-CTES). The terminology applied for pollen grain description follows Erdtman (1966), Keeley & Jones (1979), and Punt *et al.* (2007).

#### **Taxonomic treatment**

##### ***Lepidaploa scintillans* Dematt. & D. Marq., sp. nov.** (Figs 1–4)

Erect shrub, ca. 1.5 m tall. Leaves spirally alternate, subsessile; blade lanceolate, coriaceous to chartaceous, discolor due to indumentum, margin entire, apex acute to acuminate, basally attenuate, both surface sericeous, nacreous, argent. Capitulescence seriate-cymose, short, recurved. Florets 10–12 per capitulum, corolla lilac, tube glabrescent, lobes lanceolate, sericeous, glandular, apex acuminate. Pappus biseriate, outer series subpaleaceous, inner series bristles.

**Type:**—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Nova Porteirinha, Torre da CEMIG, 14 April 2007, *J.M. Silva & O.S. Ribas 5655* (holotype: MBM!; isotype: CTES!).

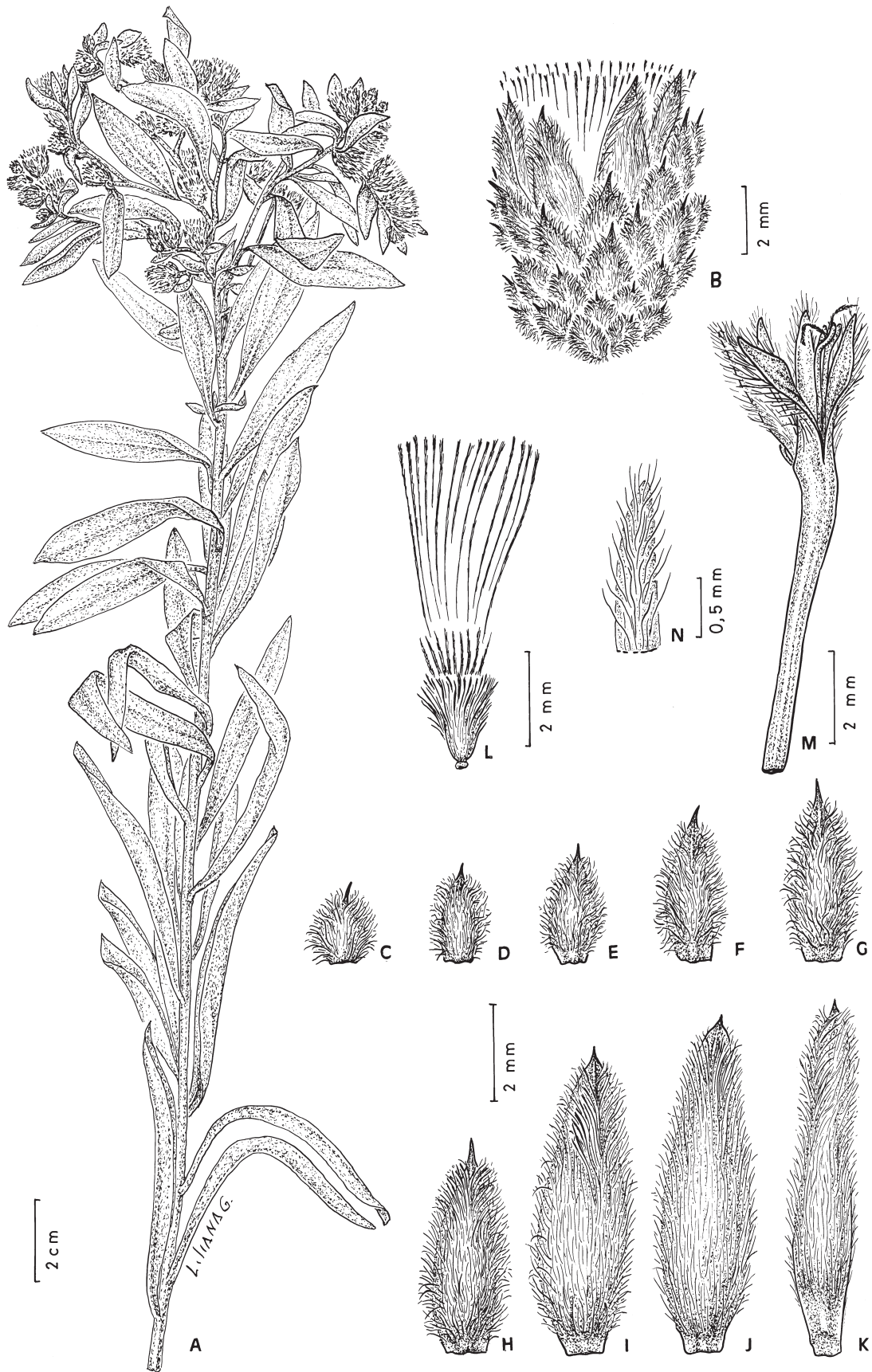
**Description:**—Erect shrub, ca. 1.5 m tall, branched. Branches ca. 0.2 cm in diam., terete, striated, densely sericeous, white to grayish, leafy up to capitulescence, internodes 0.5–1.2 cm long. Leaves spirally alternate, simple, discolor due to indumentum, petiolate, ca. 0.3 cm long, coriaceous-chartaceous; blade 5.5–6.4 × 0.1–0.3 cm, lanceolate, entire, apex acute to acuminate, base attenuate, both surfaces sericeous, nacreous, argent, pinnatinervate, veins prominent above, sericeous. Capitulescence 3.8–5.6 cm long, seriate-cymose, short, recurved, branches 4–6, short, with 6–7 capitula, leafy. Bracts of capitulescence leafy, 1–1.9 × 0.3–0.6 cm, lanceolate, sericeous. Involucre 6.4–7.7 mm long, homogamous, discoid, campanulate, peduncles 0.1–0.2 cm long; phyllaries 38–46 per capitulum, 6–8-seriate, sericeous, whitish; outer 2–3 × 0.5–0.8 mm, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, apex apiculate, margin serrulate; inner 6.2–6.5 × 2–2.1 mm, elliptic-lanceolate, apex apiculate, margin serrulate. Florets 10–12, androgynous; corolla actinomorphic, lilac, tube 3.3–3.7 mm long, cylindrical, glabrescent, lobes 4.3–4.6 mm long, lanceolate, pilose, trichomes glandular and eglandular, apex acute; anthers 3.6–4.3 mm long, apical anther appendages acute, basal anther appendages caudate; styles 10.2–11 mm long, with hairs below bifurcation point of style arms; stylopodium cylindrical, brown. Cypselae 1.8–2.4 cm long, obconic, angled, sericeous, glandular, with idioblasts and prismatic crystals on wall; carpopodium annular; pappus biseriate, cream-coloured, outer series 0.9–1.1 mm long, subpaleaceous, inner series 4.4–5.5 mm long, bristles. Pollen grains (type G): prolate-spheroidal (P/E: 1.14 μm), triporate, echinolophate, polar axis 23.12 (23.8) 25.84 μm; equatorial diameter 19.04 (20.74) 23.12 μm. Pore lolate, 6.8–8.16 × 5.44–6.8 μm. Exine, excluding spines, 4.08 (4.76) 5.44 μm. Tectum discontinuous, irregular caveate, surface microperforate, spines 2.04 (2.55) 62.72 μm long.

**Distribution and ecology:**—The new species occurs in Nova Porteirinha, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The analyzed material has been found in the Cerrado.

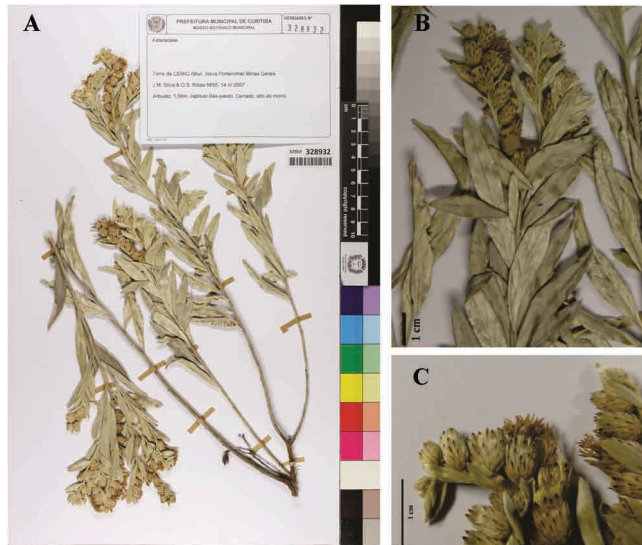
**Phenology:**—Flowers and fruits of this species were collected from April. However, flowering time might be extended to March and/or May.

**Etymology:**—The specific epithet refers to shimmering leaves of the species.

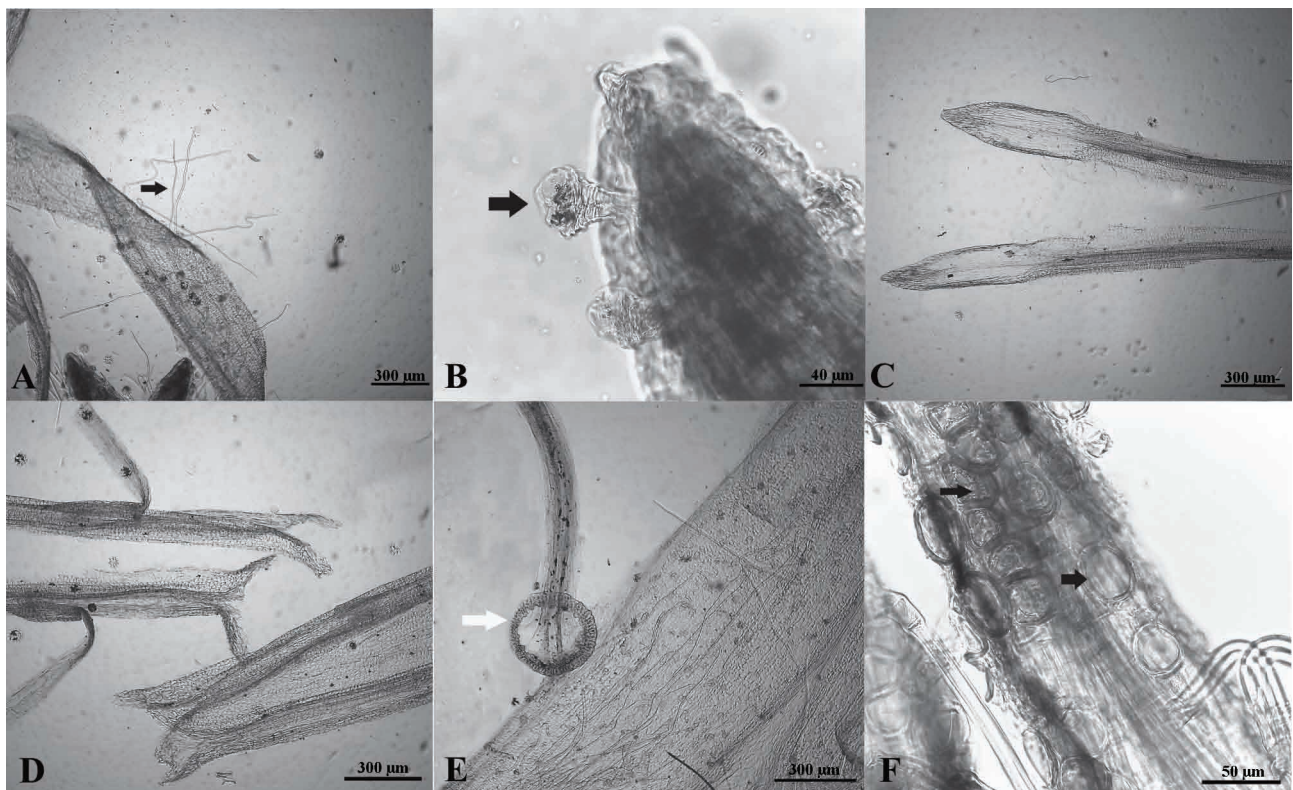
**Discussion:**—*Lepidaploa scintillans* is readily recognized by the sericeous, nacreous and argent indumentum of both leaf surfaces, and subpaleaceous outer pappus. The new taxon is a distinctive species because of the features mentioned above, but it can be confused with *L. persericea* Robinson (1990: 292) because of the indumentum type of the leaves. Morphological comparisons between *L. scintillans* and *L. persericea* are summarised in Table 1.



**FIGURE 1.** *Lepidaploa scintillans* (isotype). **A:** Plant. **B:** Capitulum. **C–K:** Phyllaries series. **L:** Cypsel with pappus. **M:** Floret. **N:** Detail of corolla lobes. (A–N: from *J.M. Silva & O.S. Ribas 5655*, CTES; illustrated by Mirtha L. Gómez).



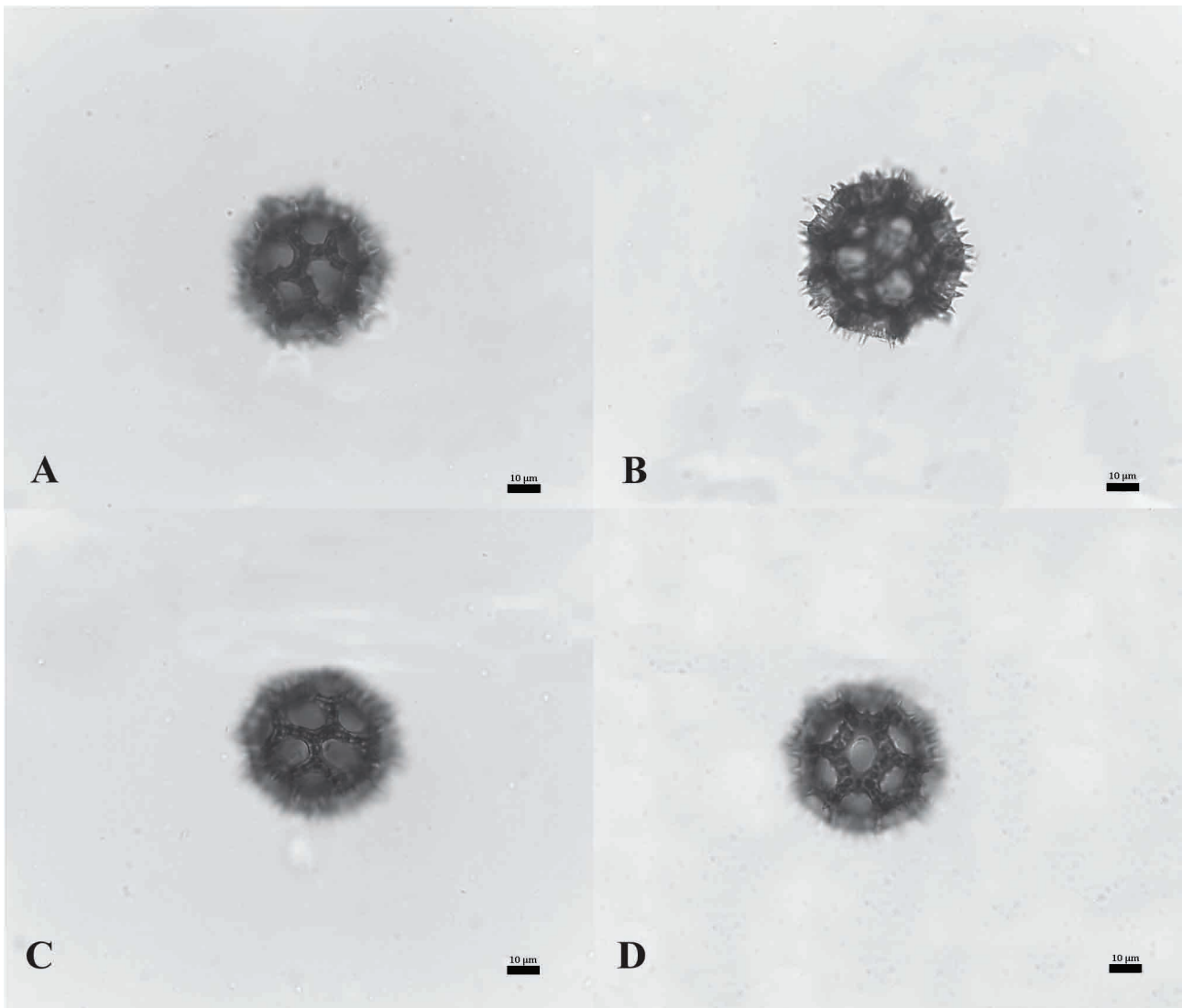
**FIGURE 2.** *Lepidaploa scintillans* details (holotype): **A:** Branch. **B:** Flowering branch showing the leaves. **C:** Capitula. (A–C: from *J.M. Silva & O.S. Ribas 5655*, MBM; imaged by Eduardo D. Lozano).



**FIGURE 3.** Floral microcharacters of *Lepidaploa scintillans* (LM): **A:** Corolla lobes with eglandular trichomes (black arrow). **B:** Corolla lobes with glandular trichomes (black arrow). **C:** Acute apical anther. **D:** Caudate basal anther. **E:** Basal style node (white arrow). **F:** Cypsela with idioblasts (black arrow).

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**FIGURE 4.** Pollen of *Lepidaploa scintillans* (LM): **A:** Polar view, high focus. **B:** Polar view, middle focus. **C:** Equatorial view, mesocolpium, high focus. **D:** Equatorial view, high focus. Scale bars= 10 µm.

**TABLE 1.** Diagnostic morphological characters of *Lepidaploa scintillans* and *L. persericea*.

	<i>L. scintillans</i>	<i>L. persericea</i>
Blade	lanceolate	oblong-ovate
Leaf width	0.1–0.3 cm	1.2–3 cm
Leaf apex	acute to acuminate	acuminate
Leaf base	attenuate	rotund
Adaxial leaves	sericeous	pilose
Abaxial leaves	silver sericeous	yellowish sericeous
Capitulescence	3.8–5.6 cm long	ca. 26 cm long
Corolla lobes	eglandular and glandular trichomes	eglandular trichomes
Outer series of pappus	subpaleaceous	paleaceous
Distribution area	Minas Gerais (Brazil)	Bahia (Brazil)

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