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Three new species of *Cladonia* (Cladoniaceae, Ascomycota) from Southern Brazil

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ABSTRACT

Cladonia maculata, *C. paranaensis* and *C. quiririensis* are described as new to science. These species were found between the altitudes of 900 to 1887 meters on the Serra do Mar Mountain in Southern Brazil.

Key words: Lichen, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Serra do Mar, taxonomy.

INTRODUCTION

The Serra do Mar is a mountain range which extends, parallel to the Atlantic coastline, for about 1000 km from the states of Rio de Janeiro to Santa Catarina (Santos 2004). In the Southern Brazil, it comprises a chain of mountains with peaks higher than 1800 m of altitude in the state of Paraná. In the northern region of the state of Santa Catarina, it ceases to exist as a orographic unit and becomes a parallel strand of mountains and isolated hills (Almeida and Carneiro 1998). Even though the *Cladonia* P. Browne species are very abundant and diverse in environments above 900 m in the Serra do Mar in South Brazil, they are still poorly studied. The only references were made by Ahti (2000) and Charnei and Eliasaro (2013). During a survey on Cladoniaceae in this area, where 858 specimens were analyzed we discovered three new species of this genus.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The new species are described from specimens collected on soil or rock in high-altitude grassland vegetation between 900 to 1887 m on the Serra do Mar Mountain range in South Brazil (Figure 1). The geographic and climatic data from the study area are described in Charnei and Eliasaro (2013).

The specimens were examined using standard stereoscopic and light microscopic techniques. Sections of thalli and picnidia were mounted in water. Chemical constituents were identified by spot tests, under UV light (Taylor 1967, 1968) and thin layer chromatography using C solvent system (Culberson and Ammann 1979, Elix and Ernst-Russell 1993).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Cladonia maculata Charnei, Eliasaro and Gumboski, sp. nov. (Figures 2A-B)

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Figure 1 - 1- Map of the study area with the collection localities of the new species: 1- Serra do Ibitiraquire; 2- Serra da Graciosa; 3- Serra do Quiriri; 4- Serra do Tabuleiro.

Differing from *Cladonia secundana* by the medulla of primary squamules and podetia with orange pigment, and by the podetia without stereome and with a surface markedly maculate.

TYPE

— BRAZIL. State of Santa Catarina: Municipality of Santo Amaro da Imperatriz, Pico da Serra do Tabuleiro, 27°49'S, 48°53'W, 1250 m, 13 August 2011, *A. M. Charnei et al.* 325 (Holotype UPCB).

ETYMOLOGY

The specific epithet is derived from the Latin word *macula* (= spot) and refers to the maculate podetia.

DESCRIPTION

Primary thallus: persistent, consisting of lobed squamules, generally ascending, 0.1-1.0 cm long \times 0.2-1.3 cm wide, soredia and granules absent, margins entire to irregularly crenate, without rhizines; upper surface corticate, yellowish green, verruculose, slightly glossy, pruine absent; lower surface ecorticate, orange to brownish, arachnoid, not veined; cortex 80-240 μ m thick; medulla 110-320 μ m thick, mainly orange to rarely white with orange spots; pycnidia abundant, mainly laminal, red to brownish red, pyriform, red mucilage; conidia falciform, 7-8 \times 1 μ m. Secondary thallus: 0.2-2.1 cm tall, 0.7-1.5 mm thick, yellowish green to olive green, simple to often moderately branched

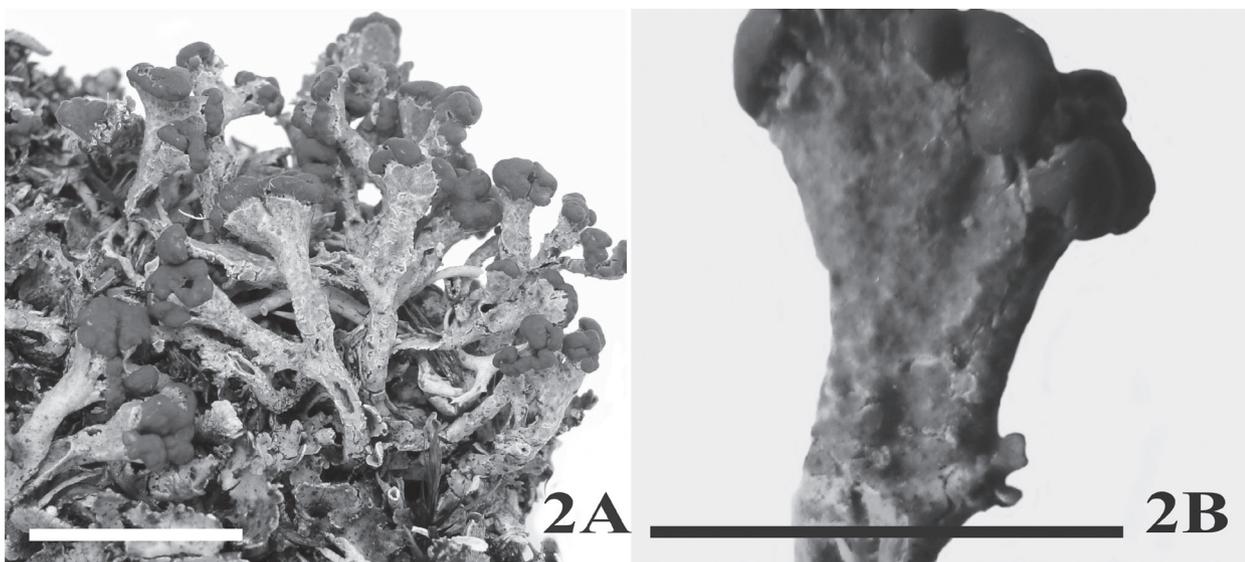


Figure 2 - *Cladonia maculata*. A- General aspect. B- Detail of macula (*A. M. Charnei et al.* 325).

in upper regions of podetia, imperforate, but sometimes the hymenial disks break up, ascyphose, not melanotic at base; surface corticate, maculate, distinct, macula up to 1.2 mm long, verruculose and cracked, soredia and granules absent, squamules lobed, up to 0.6 mm long, scarce; cortex (0-) 50-140 μm thick; medulla 250-550 μm thick, mainly orange to rarely white with orange spots; stereome absent; central canal felty; hymenial discs common, red, apical, solitary or clustered, with up to 0.4 cm in diameter when solitary but smaller when clustered; ascospores ellipsoid, 9-12 \times 4 μm ; pycnidia absent.

CHEMISTRY

Spot tests: cortex K-, C-, KC-, UV-; medulla K+ brownish red, C-, UV-. TLC: usnic and rhodocladonic acids, and three unidentified substances with Rf C approximately 13, 35 and 40.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION

Cladonia maculata is known only from the type locality in the Pico da Serra do Tabuleiro, a region in the Southeast part of the state of Santa Catarina, where it is common and grows on the soil and on a thin layer of sediment on rock, in open and very exposed sites at 1250 m, commonly growing with *Cladia aggregata* (Sw.) Nylander (1876: 88).

REMARKS

Cladonia maculata is distinguished by the broad primary squamules, with orange (rarely white with orange spots) medulla, the podetia distinctly maculate (Figure 2B) without stereome and by the production of usnic and rhodocladonic acids.

Cladonia maculata is similar to *C. secundana* Nylander (1874: 71), a species that has chemotypes with usnic and rhodocladonic acids (Ahti 2000), by having a persistent primary thallus, consisting of lobed squamules and corticate podetia. However, *C. secundana* differ in having a completely white medulla, and podetia emaculate with a continuous to subcontinuous stereome (Stenroos 1989, Ahti

2000). These two species grow together in the Serra do Tabuleiro, where they can be easily differentiated by observing the podetial surface.

This species is clearly a member of *Cladonia miniata* group (Stenroos 1989) by the persistent primary thallus, consisting of broad squamules with thick cortex and by the red hymenial discs. Within this group, due to the color of the medulla and absence of stereome, *C. maculata* could be mistaken for *C. miniata* G. Meyer. (1825: 149) and *C. salmonea* S. Stenroos (1989: 255). However, in *C. miniata* the primary squamules have granules at the margins and a veined lower surface, the podetium is flabellate, poorly differentiated from primary squamules and also differs chemically since it lacks usnic acid (Ahti 2000). *Cladonia salmonea* has elongated squamules deeply divided into lobes, up to 5.0 cm long, which are greater than those found in *C. maculata* and the podetia, that are rarely produced, are very rudimentary and deformed with no more than 2.0 mm in height (Stenroos 1989, Ahti 2000), whereas in *C. maculata* they are frequent and taller. Furthermore, in these two species the surfaces of podetia are emaculate (Stenroos 1989, Ahti 2000).

Cladonia parvipes (Vain.) S. Stenroos (*in* Ahti 2000: 221), another member of *Cladonia miniata* group, can be distinguished by its squamules with granules at the margins, the podetial surface partially ecorticate and emaculate and by the absence of usnic acid (Ahti 2000).

Morphologically it is similar to *C. cristatella* Tuckerman (1858: 428), an endemic species of eastern North America (Hammer 2001), that differs by the presence of stereome (Vainio 1887) and by the production of barbatic and didymic acids (Moore 1968, Brodo et al. 2001).

According to Ahti (2000), *C. gracilentia* Tuckerman (1862: 395) and *C. leporina* Fries (1831: 243) also have no stereome and produce usnic acid. However, *C. gracilentia* differs from *C. maculata* by the formation of scyphy (Ahti 2000) and *C. leporina* by the evanescent primary squamules (Ahti 2000,

Brodo et al. 2001). Moreover, these species have no maculate podetia.

Cladonia subminiata S. Stenroos (1989: 256) also possess a persistent primary thallus and produce usnic acid, but the medulla is entirely white and the podetia, which are rarely present, are strongly phyllopodial, smaller, with discontinuous cortex and with stereome.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED

— BRAZIL. State of Santa Catarina: Municipality of Santo Amaro da Imperatriz, Pico da Serra do

Tabuleiro, 27°49'S, 48°53'W, 1250 m, 13 August 2011, *A. M. Charnei et al.* 326, 385, 387, 388, 389 (UPCB).

Cladonia paranaensis Charnei, Eliasaro and Gumboski, sp. nov. (Figures 3A-B)

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Differing from *Cladonia peziziformis* by the primary squamules lacerate to incised, 0.5-1.7 × 0.3-1.0 mm, friable and by the podetial surface ecorticate without fissures or slits.

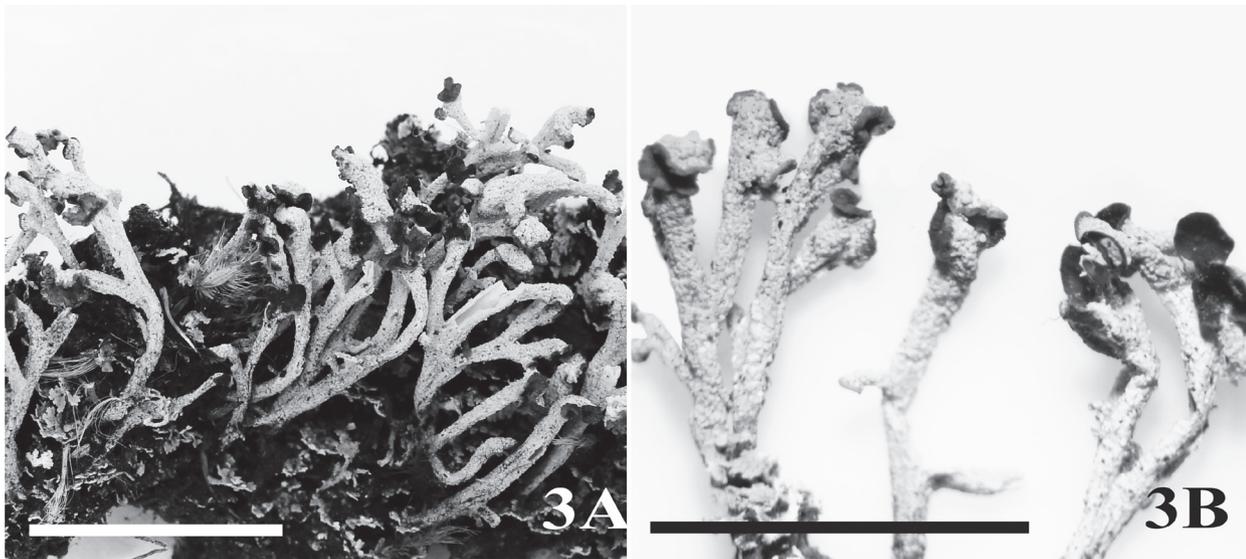


Figure 3 - *C. paranaensis*. A- General aspect. B- Detail of laterality of hymenial discs (*A. M. Charnei et al.* 141).

TYPE

— BRAZIL. State of Paraná: Municipality of Campina Grande do Sul, Serra do Ibitiraquire, Morro do Getúlio, 25°14'S, 48°50'W, 1230 m, 06 July 2011, *A. M. Charnei et al.* 141 (Holotype UPCB).

ETYMOLOGY

The specific epithet is derived from the word “paraná”, meaning from Paraná, a state in Southern Brazil.

DESCRIPTION

Primary thallus: persistent, consisting of lacerate to incised squamules, 0.5-1.7 mm long × 0.3-1.0

mm wide, friable, imbricate, margins crenate, soredia and granules absent, without rhizines; upper surface corticate, green, smooth, slightly glossy, pruinose absent; lower surface ecorticate, white or with brownish yellow spots, arachnoid, not veined; cortex 20-30 μm thick; medulla 80-120 μm thick; pycnidia laminal, scarce, globose, black, mucilage and conidia absent. Secondary thallus: 0.3-1.4 cm tall, 0.4-0.8 mm thick at the base, thickening towards the apices, up to 1.5 mm thick at the apex, whitish grey, commonly simple to 2-3 branched, but rarely up to nine branches mostly in the upper half of podetia, imperforate, ascyphose, base not

melanotic; surface entire, ecorticate, verruculose, esorediate, squamules scarce mainly at the base of podetia, up to 0.6 mm long, margins crenate; medulla (0-) 20-100 μm thick; stereome 100-250 μm thick, hyaline, poorly delimited from the medulla; central canal papillate with longitudinal strands near the hymenial disks; hymenial disks beginning planes at the apex of podetium, but as they develop, due to further growth of one side of podetium, they become lateral and concave, brown, 0.5-1.8 mm in diameter; ascospores ellipsoid, $7-9 \times 3 \mu\text{m}$; pycnidia absent.

CHEMISTRY

Spot tests: K-, C-, KC-, UV-. TLC: fumarprotocetraric acid.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION

Cladonia paranaensis is currently known only from the type locality, Morro do Getúlio, in the northeast part of the state of Paraná, and this hill much of the slopes and almost all the top was burned in 2007, and is currently covered by herbaceous vegetation. It occurs on soil, in well illuminated and exposed places and isolated from other species of *Cladonia*.

REMARKS

Cladonia paranaensis is a member of section *Helopodium* (*sensu* Ahti 2000) by the primary squamules persistent, ascyphose podetia, hymenial disks brown and by the production of fumarprotocetraric acid. Within this section, *C. peziziformis* (With.) J. R. Laundon (1984: 223) and *C. solida* Vain. (1890: 246), can have hymenial disks arranged laterally (Ahti, pers. comm.) as *C. paranaensis* (Figure 3B).

However, *Cladonia peziziformis* has primary squamules rounded, nearly circular, thick (220-320 μm), with margins smooth to slightly crenate and with granules (Ahti 2000, Wang *et al.* 2008, Burgaz and Ahti 2009), whereas *C. paranensis* has lacerate to incised squamules, thin (100-150

μm) and very fragile (breaking easily when they are cut anatomically), with margins crenate without granules. These two species also differ in the podetial surface, in *C. peziziformis* it is corticate-areolate with longitudinal fissures that expose the central canal (as observed in the specimen *G. Hatschbach 16428*; MBM!), whereas in *C. paranaensis* it is ecorticate, entire, with no fissures or slits.

Cladonia solida differs from *C. paranaensis* in having corticate and solid podetia, rarely with hollow regions in the base as seen in the specimens occurring in the study area and similar to those reported by Vainio (1894), Ahti (2000) and Gumboski and Eliasaro (2012).

Cladonia furfuracea Vain. (1894: 375) also has podetia ecorticate and verrucose and contains fumarprotocetraric acid, but has most or all podetia scyphiforming and has isidioid squamules (Ahti 2000).

This species is, among the other species of *Cladonia* that occur in the Serra do Mar in South Brazil, the easiest *Cladonia* to identify due to its hymenial disks positioned laterally.

Cladonia quiririensis Charnei, Eliasaro and Gumboski, sp. nov. (Figures 4A-B)

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Differing from *Cladonia polyscypha* by absence of the scyphose podetia with the surface entirely ecorticate, and by the secondary squamules situated mainly in the apical region usually producing new podetia.

TYPE

— BRAZIL. State of Santa Catarina: Municipality of Garuva, Serra do Quiriri, $26^{\circ}04'56''\text{S}$, $48^{\circ}54'37''\text{W}$, 970 m, 07 May 2011, *A. M. Charnei et al. 110* (Holotype UPCB).

ETYMOLOGY

The epithet “quiririensis” is derived from the Tupi-Guarani language word quiriri (= silence, peace) and refers to type locality.

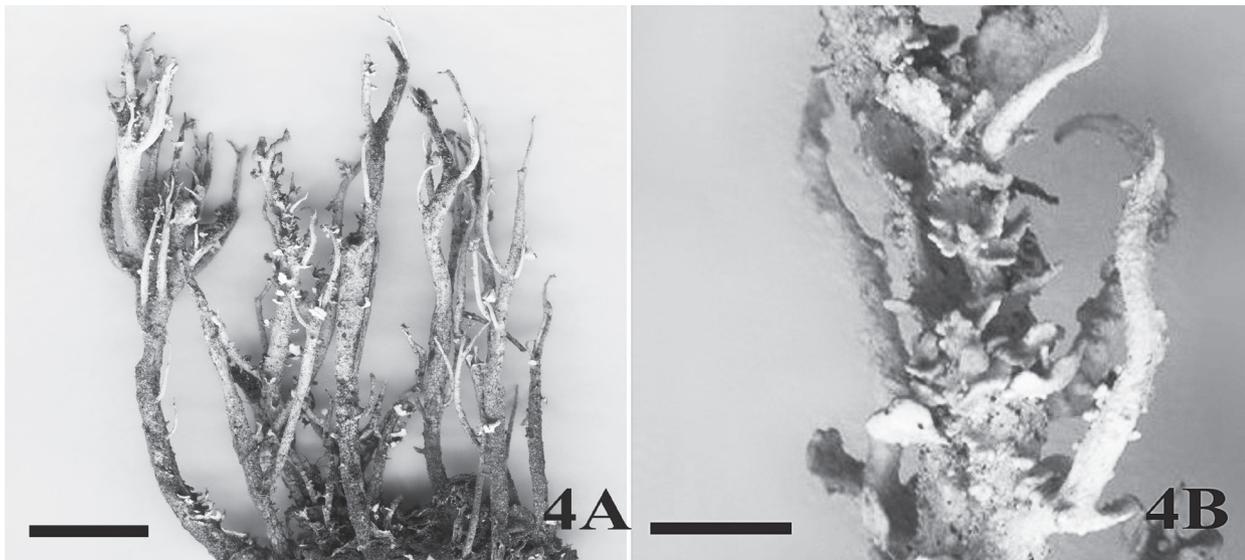


Figure 4 - *C. quiririensis*. **A**- General aspect. **B**- Detail of new podetia originated in the squamules of the podetia (*A. M. Charnei et al. 110*). Scale bar = 1 cm (except 3B = 1 mm).

DESCRIPTION

Primary thallus: evanescent, consisting of lobed squamules, 1.0-3.0 mm long \times 0.9-2.0 mm wide, soredia and granules absent, margins entire, without rhizines; upper surface corticate, greyish green, smooth, opaque, pruinose absent; lower surface ecorticate, white with brownish spots in the base, arachnoid, not veined; cortex 30-50 μ m thick; medulla 80-130 μ m thick; pycnidia absent. Secondary thallus: 0.9-4.8 cm tall, 0.6-2.3 mm thick, whitish grey, slightly branched, branches mainly in the upper half of podetia, without clearly definite pattern, ranging from two to nine branches, tips subulate, base melanotic, imperforate; surface ecorticate, sorediate, soredia farinose generally falling and exposing the medulla and/or the stereome, granules absent, squamules lacinate, up to 1.2 mm long, located mainly in the apical region of the podetia, from where usually new podetia are formed; medulla 0-90 μ m thick; stereome 110-240 μ m thick, brownish in the basal region, hyaline in the upper region; central canal grooved; hymenial disks absent; pycnidia apical, uncommon, dark brown, cylindrical to pyriform, mucilage hyaline; conidia slightly curved to falciform, 5-7 \times 1 μ m.

CHEMISTRY

Spot tests: K-, C-, KC-, UV-. TLC: fumarprotocetraric acid and traces of physodalic acid.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION

Although collected in both states of Paraná and Santa Catarina, *Cladonia quiririensis* is a rare species that grows on soil, isolated from other species of *Cladonia*.

REMARKS

Cladonia quiririensis is characterized by the branched podetia with melanotic base and farinose soredia, entirely ecorticate, and by the secondary squamules situated mainly in the apical region and usually producing new podetia.

Morphologically *C. quiririensis* closely resembles *C. polyscypha* Ahti and L. Xavier (*in* Ahti et al. 1993: 61), but the latter species can be distinguished by the podetia simple to slightly branched, with apices mainly scyphose, with cortex at least in the basal region, sometimes the cortex reaching almost half of the podetia and by the secondary squamules scattered throughout the podetia (Ahti et al. 1993, Gumboski and Eliasaro 2012).

Cladonia macilentoides Ahti and Fleig (in Fleig et al. 1995: 14) could also be mistaken for *C. quiririensis*, since in both the podetia are ascyphose and soredate, and *C. macilentoides* sometimes has a melanotic base (Fleig et al. 1995, Ahti 2000) as in *C. quiririensis*. However, *C. macilentoides* has a podetia mainly simple to dichotomously branched, hymenial disks red and contains thamnolic acid. In the field, *C. macilentoides* (e.g. *A. M. Charnei et al. 105*, UPCB) and *C. quiririensis* grow together and they can be differentiated by the more branched podetia and by the formation of new podetia from the secondary squamules in the latter (Figure 4B).

Cladonia subradiata (Vain.) Sandstede. (1922: 230), a superficially similar and common species in Southern Brazil (Gumboski and Eliasaro 2012b), differs in having scyphose podetia without melanotic base.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED

— BRAZIL. State of Paraná: Municipality of Campina Grande do Sul, Serra da Graciosa, 24 August 1993, *S. Eliasaro 1043* (UPCB). State of Santa Catarina: Municipality of Garuva, Serra do Quiriri, 26°04'56"S, 48°54'37"W, 970 m, 07 May 2011, *A. M. Charnei et al. 107* (UPCB).

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RESUMO

Cladonia maculata, *C. paranaensis* e *C. quiririensis* são descritas como novas para a ciência. Estas espécies foram encontradas entre 900 a 1887 metros de altitude na Serra do Mar no Sul Brasil.

Palavras-chave: Líquen, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Serra do Mar, taxonomia.

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