Erythroxylaceae, *Erythroxylum subsessile* (Mart.) O.E. Schulz in Espírito Santo: Distribution extension

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**ABSTRACT**: Erythroxylaceae have tropical and subtropical distribution with four genera and about 250 species. *Erythroxylum* is the biggest genus of the family with approximately 100 species cited for Brazil. *Erythroxylum subsessile* (Mart.) O.E. Schulz is a species cited just for Rio de Janeiro state and now first recorded for the state of Espírito Santo, increasing its area of distribution.

Erythroxylaceae has a tropical and subtropical distribution with four genera and about 250 species: *Erythroxylum* P. Browne, *Aneulophus* Benth. (treated as a taxon with uncertain position in APG II), *Nectaropetalum* Engl. (sometimes considered as a separate family) and *Pinacopodium* Exell and Mendonça. *Erythroxylum* is the only genus with pantropical distribution; the others are restricted to Africa (Heywood *et al.* 2007).

*Erythroxylum* P. Browne, according to Plowman and Hensold (2004), comprises about 230 species and is the biggest genus of the family. In the Americas, there are about 187 species distributed from Mexico to the southern portion of South America. This genus is also registered in Africa, Madagascar, Asia and Australia (Mabberley 1993; Plowman and Berry 1999). In Brazil, there are approximately 100 species in this genus and it is one of the most common genera in the Brazilian Cerrado, although it also occurs in other natural formations such as forest, restinga forest, semideciduous forest, high altitude grasslands and riparian forest.

*Erythroxylum subsessile* (Mart.) O.E. Schulz is a species cited only for Rio de Janeiro state and now first recorded for the state of Espírito Santo, increasing its area of distribution.

**Distribution**: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo.

**Ecology**: *E. subsessile* occurs mainly in the arboreal or shrubby restinga vegetation but it can occur up to the Atlantic rain forest areas.


**Figure 1.** *Erythroxylum subsessile* (Mart.) O.E. Schulz. A. Main view of sample deposited in Herbarium BOTU (BOTU 026774). B. Detail showing sub-sessile leaves with short and thick petioles and stipule widely triangular and with the same size as the petiole. 

According to Schulz (1907) *E. subsessile* belongs to section Archerythroxylum and is easily recognized by the sub-sessile leaves with short and thick petioles (Fig. 1A, B). The stipules are persistent, 1mm wide, same size as the petiole, widely triangular, with short and obtuse apex, 3-setulose and striated (Fig. 1B). The calyx lobes opening up to the base.
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