



A New Species of *Solanum* Section *Micracantha* (Solanaceae) from
Northeastern Brazil

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ABSTRACT. *Solanum paraibanum* is a new species from the wet forest of northeastern Brazil; it is found only in João Pessoa, State of Paraíba. The new taxon is described and illustrated, and its closest relationships are discussed.

A distinct species of the scandent and prickly section *Micracantha* Dunal of *Solanum* L. was noted from recent collections made by the author in João Pessoa, State of Paraíba, and is described here. It is apparently rare and has been collected only three times. Its closest relationships are with a small group of species of this section restricted to the northeast of Brazil.

Solanum paraibanum Agra, sp. nov. TYPE: Brazil. Paraíba: município de João Pessoa, Cidade Universitária, 6 km Sudeste do centro, 7°06'S, 34°53'W, 30–45 m, 10 nov. 1989, *Agra 1101* (holotype, JPB; isotypes, PEUFR, MO). Figure 1.

Frutex scandens. Folia lanceolata sinuato-angulata, breviter petiolata, scabra supra strigosa, subtus pilis stellatis pulverulento-punctata. Inflorescentia scorpiodeo-cymosa, simplex, interaxillaris; pedicello 1.0–1.2 cm longo; calycis laciniis 0.8–1.0 cm longis, lineari-lanceolatis revolutis; corolla violacea, profunde lobata, extus stellato-tomentosa.

Scandent shrub 4–10 m high, with a fuscous pubescence, armed with short, yellow, recurved prickles of various sizes up to 0.4 cm. Stem terete, dark brown hispid-pubescent with mostly sessile pauciradiate stellae bearing greatly prolonged 3–4-celled midpoints, sparsely armed with small, broad-based,

ferruginous prickles to 0.2–0.3 cm that are recurved at the apex. Leaves petiolate; petiole terete, to 1–3.5 cm long, stellate-scabrous, the hairs and prickles similar to those of the stems, but more compact; leaf blades chartaceous, ovate-lanceolate, the larger 8–15 cm long, 3.5–8.0 cm broad, acute at apex, broadly cuneate at base, usually sinuate-lobed, the lobes 3–4 pairs, acute, above stellate-hispid, the hairs sessile with greatly prolonged midpoints, sparsely prickly on the principal veins, beneath stellate-pubescent, the hairs sessile, porrect-stellate, 6–8-celled; sparsely armed on the midrib or minor veins, the prickles yellowish, short and recurved at apex. Inflorescences lateral, extra-axillary monochasial, unbranched, remote from the leaves, some of the distal flowers with reduced gynoecia; pedicels 0.6–1.0 cm long, becoming longer and stouter in fruit, stellate-pubescent and prickly with hairs similar to those of the branches and leaves and small, yellow prickles, ca. 0.1–0.15 cm at anthesis, enlarged in fruit, ca. 2–2.5 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide, with small prickles and pubescence similar to those of peduncle and branches. Flowers heterostylous, the basal (two or more) with elongate and functional styles ca. 1.2–1.5 cm long, exceeding the anthers, broad and glabrous to a clavate stigma; the distal flowers with short thick and abortive style and stigma. Calyx densely stellate-pubescent, armed with short, acute, yellow prickles, deeply lobed about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length, the tube ca. 0.1 cm, the lobes linear-lanceolate and revolute. Corolla blue or violet, deeply parted, the lobes gradually recurved, narrowly lanceolate, 1.0–1.5 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide above the tube, the tube short, 0.1–0.2 cm long, densely

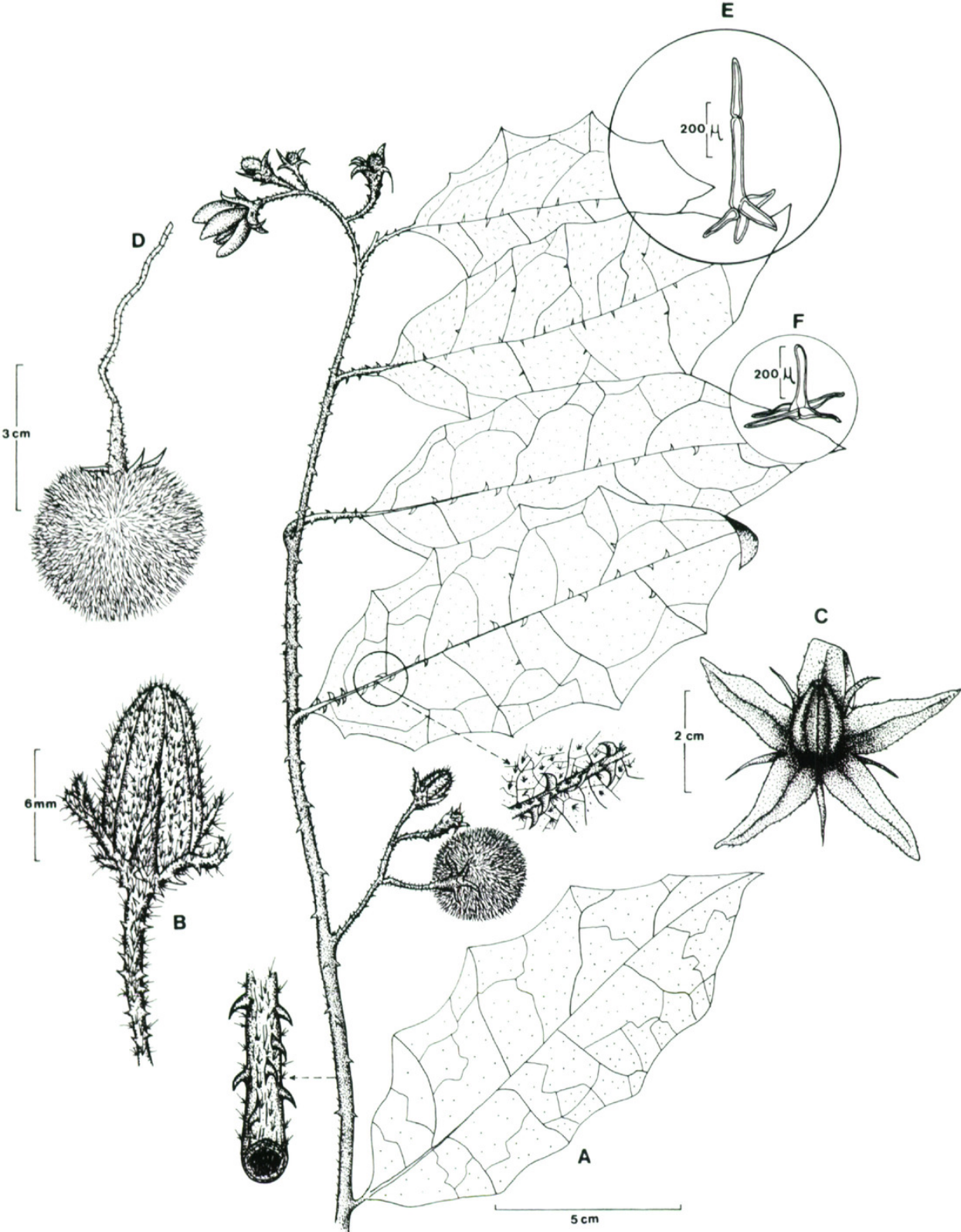


Figure 1. *Solanum paraibanum* Agra (drawing from *M. F. Agra 1101*). —A. Habit. —B. Bud. —C. Staminate flower. —D. Fruit. —E. Leaf, stellate hair, upper surface. —F. Leaf, stellate hair, lower surface.

stellate-pubescent, the hairs sessile with fully developed midpoints, sometimes with lateral rays wanting and the hairs apparently simple and stiff. *Filaments* 0.2–0.3 cm long, 0.1–0.2 cm wide, glabrous.

Anthers equal, oblong-linear, 1.0–1.2 cm long, 0.2–0.3 cm wide at base, cordate at base, attenuate to apex, the pores minute. *Ovary* densely stellate-pubescent. *Berry* red-orange, ca. 2.5–3 cm diam.,

densely hirsute until maturity; the hairs consisting of prolonged uniseriate midpoints; seeds numerous, black, lenticular, 0.40–0.45 cm across.

Paratypes. BRAZIL. PARAIBA: João Pessoa, Campus I da Universidade Federal da Paraíba, *Moura 10* (JPB), *Agra 448* (JPB, BR).

Solanum paraibanum is known only from the type locality, in the Atlantic Coastal Forest in Paraíba, in wet forest, at elevations near sea level. This vegetation includes floristic elements related to the Amazon forest and consists mainly of tall trees, many of large diameter. The rainfall of this area is strongly seasonal, with most rains falling between May and October; it is only during these months that *S. paraibanum* flowers.

Solanum paraibanum is related to *S. rupicola* Sendtner and *S. rupicola* var. *piauhyensis* Dunal, both members of section *Micracantha* sensu D'Arcy (1973), characterized by glabrous and pubescent berries. It is distinguished from those species by the smaller size of the calyx, corolla, and fruit, the shape of the linear-lanceolate and revolute calyx lobes,

and the more scabrous pubescence. These and other unnamed species are restricted to the northeast of Brazil and constitute a small, closely related group of *Micracantha* that is characterized by large berries that are densely hirsute until maturity, bearing sessile stellate trichomes with prolonged midpoints.

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