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Authors: Cleusa Vogel Ely, Sérgio Augusto de Loreto Bordignon, Rafael Trevisan, Ilsi Iob Boldrini



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Short Communication

Implications of poor taxonomy in conservation

Cleusa Vogel Ely^{1,*}, Sérgio Augusto de Loreto Bordignon², Rafael Trevisan³, Ilsi Iob Boldrini¹

¹Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Botânica, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. E-mail: cleusavely@gmail.com; ilsiboldrini@ufrgs.br

²Centro Universitário La Salle. Curso de Mestrado em Avaliação de Impactos Ambientais, Canoas, RS, Brazil. E-mail: bordignon@ibest.com.br

³Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biologia de Fungos, Algas e Plantas, Florianópolis, SC, Brazil. E-mail: rftrevisan@yahoo.com.br

*Corresponding author.

Abstract: Red Lists are legal instruments that guide decisions within the context of conservation. Such lists can indicate the most appropriate conservation actions, leading to choices of priority areas for conservation, or create alternatives to ensure the preservation of threatened species. However, if Red Lists are effective tools in the conservation of threatened species, then it is important that we have guaranteed the quality of taxonomic delimitation of these taxa. Here we discuss a case of taxonomic confusion, emphasizing the implications of misidentification in Red Lists. To avoid mistakes in species conservation, we advocate that a minimum level of taxonomic knowledge is needed to ensure success in preserving target species. Therefore, complementarity of taxonomy and conservation guarantee stronger conservation actions.

Key words: Biodiversity Conservation; Misidentification; Red Lists; Taxonomic Knowledge, Threatened Species

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