

# Magnoliophyta, Ericales, Sapotaceae, *Manilkara cavalcantei* Pires and Rodrigues ex T. D. Penn: First occurrence for northeastern Brazil

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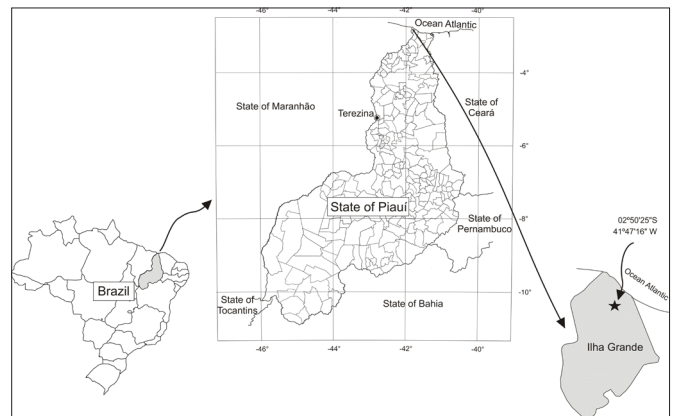
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**ABSTRACT:** The Amazonian species *Manilkara cavalcantei* is reported for the first time for northeastern Brazil in an area of “restinga” vegetation. This is the fourth species of *Manilkara* recorded for the state of Piauí, and the new record highlights the importance of protection of forest fragments.

The genus *Manilkara* Adans has approximately 30 tropical species. Commonly known as “maçaranduba”, these species have great economic potential due to their latex and the quality of their wood (Pennington 1990).

Nineteen species of this genus are known from Brazil, with 11 distributed in areas of Atlantic Forest, sandy near-coastal regions (“restinga”), “tabuleiro” vegetation, and dryland areas (“caatinga”), while eight species are found in the Amazon Forest (Pennington 1990; Almeida Jr. *et al.* 2009). In northeastern Brazil, the genus *Manilkara* is distributed along coastal areas, Atlantic Coastal Forest (*stricto sensu*) and “caatinga” vegetation (Farias and Castro



**FIGURE 2.** Localization of the area of the new occurrence of *Manilkara cavalcantei*.

2004). Currently, the state of Piauí has only three known species of *Manilkara*. In this note we register a fourth species, *Manilkara cavalcantei* Pires and W. A. Rodrigues ex T. D. Penn.

*Manilkara cavalcantei* (Figure 1) was collected in Ilha Grande (02°50'84”S, 41°47'39”W), between the years 2007 and 2008, during a floristic study in an area of restinga vegetation in the state of Piauí, Brazil (Figure 2), where a small population was observed. Since *M. cavalcantei* was previously thought to have an Amazonian distribution, the record of its presence in a “restinga” confirms a greater range of occurrence of this species. *Manilkara cavalcantei* is listed as vulnerable (VU, B1+2c) by the IUCN red list of species threatened with extinction (IUCN 2009). The new locality record for the species in Piauí highlights the importance of floristic studies in determining species distributions as well as the importance of protecting forest fragments containing species in danger of extinction.

The examined specimens of *M. cavalcantei* (F.S. Santos-Filho, 955; W. Rodrigues *et al.* 8546) are deposited in the IPA and INPA Herbarium collection (Holmgren *et al.* 1990).



**FIGURE 1.** Specimen of *Manilkara cavalcantei* collected in an area of coastal “restinga” vegetation on Ilha Grande, Piauí state, Brazil. A – Habit; B – flower bud detail; C and D – Branches detail.

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