Tab. 1. Comparative table among the seven taxa of *Hymenophyllum* subg. *Mecodium* occurring in the Atlantic Forest domain. The characters include measurements and shapes of eighteen different traits of the sporophyte.

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| **Trait** | *H. apiculatum* | *H. polyanthos* | *H. schomburgkii* | *H. sturmii* | *H. undulatum*  | *H. viridissimum* |
| Rhizome diameter (mm) | 0.2‒0.3 | 0.3‒0.6 | 0.3‒0.4 | 0.1‒0.3 | 0.1‒0.2 | 0.3‒0.5 |
| Stipe diameter (mm) | 0.2‒0.3 | 0.3‒0.5 | 0.4‒0.6 | 0.2‒0.3 | 0.1 | 0.4‒0.5 |
| Stipe length (cm) | 0.2‒1.9 | 1.3‒5.8 | 1.4‒4.5 | 1.0‒3.7 | 0.2‒3.5 | 2.2‒7.5 |
| Stipe wing | Winged | Non-winged | Winged | Winged/ Non-winged | Non-winged | Winged |
| Blade dimensions(Length × width) (cm) | 1.1‒5.2 × 0.9‒2.5 | 11.5‒27 × 2.5‒6 | 3.3‒15.5 × 2.2‒7.2 | 4.4‒29 × 1.1‒4.3 | 1.6‒21 × 1.0‒3.9 | 10‒24 × 3.6‒7.5 |
| Stipe/lamina length ratio | 1: 2.3 | 1: 4.2 | 1: 3.1 | 1: 6.9 | 1: 5.9 | 1: 2.4 |
| Blade shape | Lanceolate to linear | Ovate to lanceolate | Triangular to lanceolate | Linear to lanceolate | Linear to lanceolate | Triangular to lanceolate |
| Blade division | 2-pinnate-pinnatifid | 2-pinnate-pinnatifid | 2-3- pinnate-pinnatifid | 1,2- pinnate-pinnatifid | 2,3- pinnate-pinnatifid | 2,3- pinnate-pinnatifid |
| Capitated trichomes  | Absent | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Present |
| Rachis | Straight to flexuous | Straight to flexuous | Flexuous | Straight to flexuous | Flexuous | Straight to flexuous |
| Rachis wing | Winged | Winged from 2/3 distal portion | Winged | Winged | Winged from 2/3 distal portion | Winged |
| Rachis wing shape | Plane to undulate | Plane | Plane | Plane, undulate, crispate or involute | Crispate | Plane to undulate |
| Segment width (mm) | 0.7 ‒1.5 | 0.8 ‒1.2 | 0.9‒1.4 | 0.6‒1.4 | 0.5‒1.1 | 1.0‒1.3 |
| Segment format | Undulate | Plane | Plane | Plane, undulate to condupicate | Undulate to crispate | Plane to undulate  |
| Involucre shape | Elliptic to rhombiform | Orbicular | Triangular to lanceolate | Ovate to orbicular | Orbicular to bovate | Orbicular |
| Involucre length × width ratio | 1:0.5 | 1:1.1 | 1:0.7 | 1:1 | 1: 1.16 | 1:1 |
| Sporangia arrangement | Across the whole receptacle extension | Across the whole receptacle extension | Across the whole receptacle extension | Restricted to the receptacle apex | Restricted to the receptacle apex | Restricted to the receptacle apex |
| Mature receptacles | Similar in length to the involucre or coming through  | Within the involucre | Similar in length to the involucre or coming through | Within the involucre | Within the involucre | Within the involucre |