

NOTES ON AMERICAN GESNERIACEAE V A NEW SPECIES OF EPISCIA MART.

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INTRODUCTION

On December 19th, 1960, Dr. J. A. STEYERMARK collected a small sterile herbaceous plant which he took for a species of *Episcia*. He dried part of it and grew the rest in the Botanical Garden of Caracas and in his apartment in the same city. Furthermore he sent cuttings to Mr. and Mrs. G. C. K. DUNSTERVILLE, Estado Miranda. The plant was not easy to cultivate, producing some flowers only after several years. Dr. STEYERMARK sent some colour pictures of flowering plants made by Mr. DUNSTERVILLE from Caracas and Mr. H. WIEHLER from Cornell University a flowering herbarium specimen and some flowers in spirit from the plant grown by Mr. and Mrs. DUNSTERVILLE to the writer.

Even with only the sterile specimen and the pictures at hand it was evident that the species was undescribed. Only after analysis of the flowers its exact taxonomic position within the genus could be established.

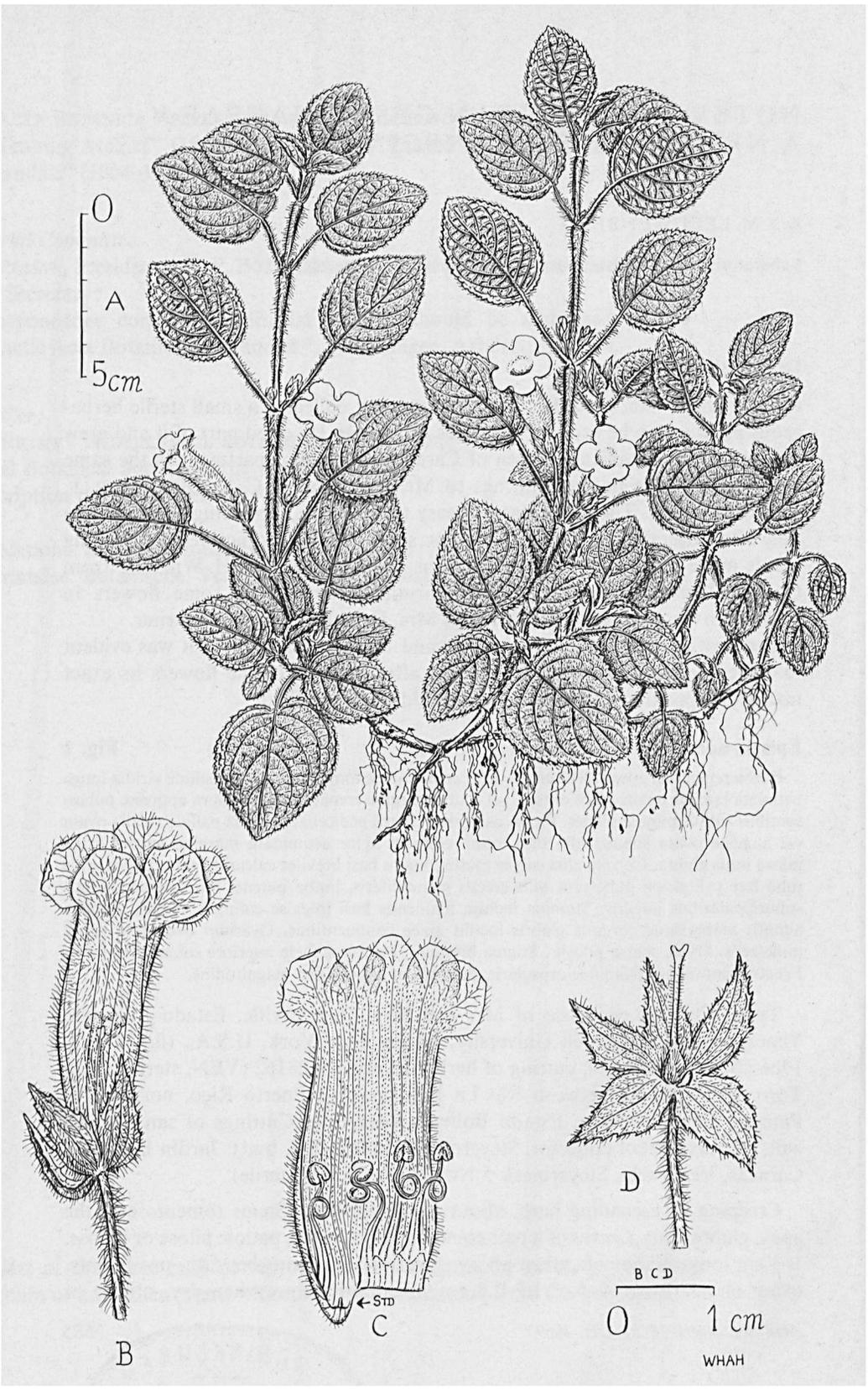
***Episcia adenosiphon* Leeuwenberg, sp. nov.**

Fig. 1

Herba repens vel adscendens caulibus teneribus apice tomentosis. Folia pallide viridia longe petiolata laminis ovatis apice obtusis vel acutis margine crenato-serratis supra appresse pubescentibus subtus minute pilosis. Flores axillares solitarii pedicellati. Sepala pallide viridia ovata vel anguste ovata subaequalia basi infimi connata apice acuminata margine serrata extus pilosa intus glabra. Corolla alba calyce multo longior basi breviter calcarata extus pilosa intus tubo fere cylindrico pubescens pilis erectis glanduliferis, limbo patente lobis subaequalibus suborbicularibus integris. Stamina inclusa filamentis basi inter se connatis et basi corollae adnatis antherisque cordatis glabris loculis apice confluentibus. Ovarium ovoideum dense pubescens. Stylus sparse pilosus. Stigma bilobum. Placentae facie interiore solum ovuliferae. Fructus ignotus, verisimiliter capsularis globosus et circiter pisi magnitudine.

Type: Cult. at residence of Mr. and Mrs. Dunsterville, Estado Miranda, Venezuela and at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A., (fl.) 29 Sept. 1966 (WAG, holotype), cutting of herb. Steyermark 88162 (VEN, sterile), Río Toro, Río Grande, between Río La Reforma and Puerto Rico, north of El Palmar, Sierra Imataca, Estado Bolívar, Venezuela. Cuttings of same plant: cult. in apartment of collector, Steyermark 95632 (VEN, bud); Jardín Botánico, Caracas, Venezuela, Steyermark 5 Nov. 1966 (WAG, sterile).

Creeping or ascending herb, about 10–20 cm high. Stems tomentose at the apex, glabrescent. *Leaves* of a pair equal, long-petiolate; petiole pilose or villose, 1–3 cm long; blade pale green above, paler and glaucous beneath, not bullate, ovate or nearly so, 2–4 × 1.2–2.8 cm, membranaceous when dry, obtuse or



0
A
5 cm

B

← STD
C

D

B C D
0 1 cm

WHAH

acute at the apex, rounded or sometimes in cultivated specimens subcordate at the base, crenate-serrate, appressed-pubescent above, minutely pilose beneath. *Flowers* axillary, solitary. Pedicel 1.5 cm long, villose. *Sepals* pale green, connate at the very base, ovate or narrowly ovate, subequal, 11–12 × 4–6 mm, acuminate, serrate, pilose outside, glabrous inside, four erect, the fifth (dorsal) curved around the spur. *Corolla* white, tubular, 3 × as long as the calyx, 35 mm long, about 5 mm wide at the base, about 9 mm at the throat, contracted neither above the spur nor in the throat, pilose outside, inside pubescent all over in the tube which is nearly cylindrical and 28 mm long; spur short, rounded; limb spreading, about 2 cm wide; lobes subequal, suborbicular, entire, 7–8 mm in diam. *Filaments* glabrous, contorted after the pollen is shed, all connate at the base, inserted near the base of the corolla tube; anthers cordate, 2 × 1.8 mm, glabrous, free; cells divergent at the base, slightly confluent at the apex, dehiscent throughout by a longitudinal split. *Staminode* one, minute, about 0.5 mm long, glabrous, without anther. *Ovary* ovoid, 3 × 2 mm, densely pubescent; style deciduous, 12 mm long, sparsely pilose-pubescent; stigma bilobed. *Disk gland* one, dorsal, tongue-shaped, entire, glabrous. *Placentae* ovuliferous on the inner surface only. Fruit and seeds unknown.

Episcia adenosiphon belongs to subsection *Centrosolenia* of section *Episcia*, being a creeping herb with free anthers with apically confluent cells and placentae which are ovuliferous on the inner surface only. It differs nevertheless clearly from the other species of this subsection. The leaves are not peltate as in *E. peltata* Morton, while the partly mauve corolla of *E. hirsuta* (Benth.) Hanst. and the crimson corolla of *E. porphyrotricha* Leeuwenberg are at least 47 mm instead of 35 mm long.

The species keys out in the key in *Acta Bot. Neerl.* 7: 315–316. 1958 to nos. 7, 17, and 19. As the plant is not hirsute, no. 7 will bring it to no. 17, where it passes 18 as the corolla lobes are entire. To no. 19 should be added:

19. Corolla creamy or white, 35–60 mm long 19a
 Corolla purple or crimson, 15–30 mm long. LESSER ANTILLES
 ***E. melittifolia***
 19a. Corolla 35 mm long; leaves 2–4 cm long. VENEZUELA . . . ***E. adenosiphon***
 Corolla 40–60 mm long; leaves 5–19 cm long 20

In habit *E. adenosiphon* approaches *E. dianthiflora* Moore et Wilson which has fimbriate instead of entire corolla lobes, but as the anther cells are confluent at the apex the present author prefers to place it in subsection *Centrosolenia* and not in subsection *Alsobia* where *E. dianthiflora* belongs.

Etymology: ἄδην, ἄδενος, gland; σίφων, tube. The corolla tube is inside completely covered with glandular hairs.

Fig. 1. *Episcia adenosiphon* Leeuwenberg: A. habit; B. flower; C. opened corolla with stamens and staminode; D. calyx with pistil and disk gland (Drawing based on specimens and colour pictures cited).

Episcia resioides Leeuwenberg, Acta Bot. Neerl. 13: 59. 1964 belongs to subsection *Physodeira* (Hanst.) Leeuwenberg which was erroneously cited as a section there. The species was twice again collected in the same state of Venezuela.

VENEZUELA: Bolívar: Río Chicanán, 80 km SW. of El Dorado (Aug.) *Steyermark* 89417 (VEN), 89590 (VEN).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present author is greatly indebted to Mr. W. H. A. Hekking for the excellent drawing.

The name of Mr. Bruno José Manara, who made the drawing of *Resia ichthyoides* in the preceding paper, Acta Bot. Neerl. 17: 475-477. 1968 (4 March 1969), was unfortunately misspelled. This is here corrected with apologies.