

NOTES ON AMERICAN GESNERIACEAE VI. A NEW SPECIES OF NAPEANTHUS GARDN.

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Among the Gesneriaceae collected by Dr. JULIAN A. STEYERMARK in Venezuela in the state Carabobo there was a remarkable species of *Napeanthus* of which he collected incomplete material for the first time in 1966. Not until 1970 did he have the opportunity to revisit this locality and collect plants with complete flowers.

The species is characterized by its large spathulate leaves. In the key of the revision of the genus (Act. Bot. Neerl. 7: 342. 1958) it could be inserted after no. 2 as follows:

- 2a. Leaves distinctly spathulate, large, 23–38 cm long, upper portion of blade abruptly narrowed into the narrow lower portion which resembles a petiole. **N. spathulatus**
Leaves oblong to almost linear or almost spathulate, but never abruptly narrowed, less than 30 cm long 3

This new species is readily recognized as a *Napeanthus* by its habit, leaves, inflorescences, flowers, fruits, and seeds.

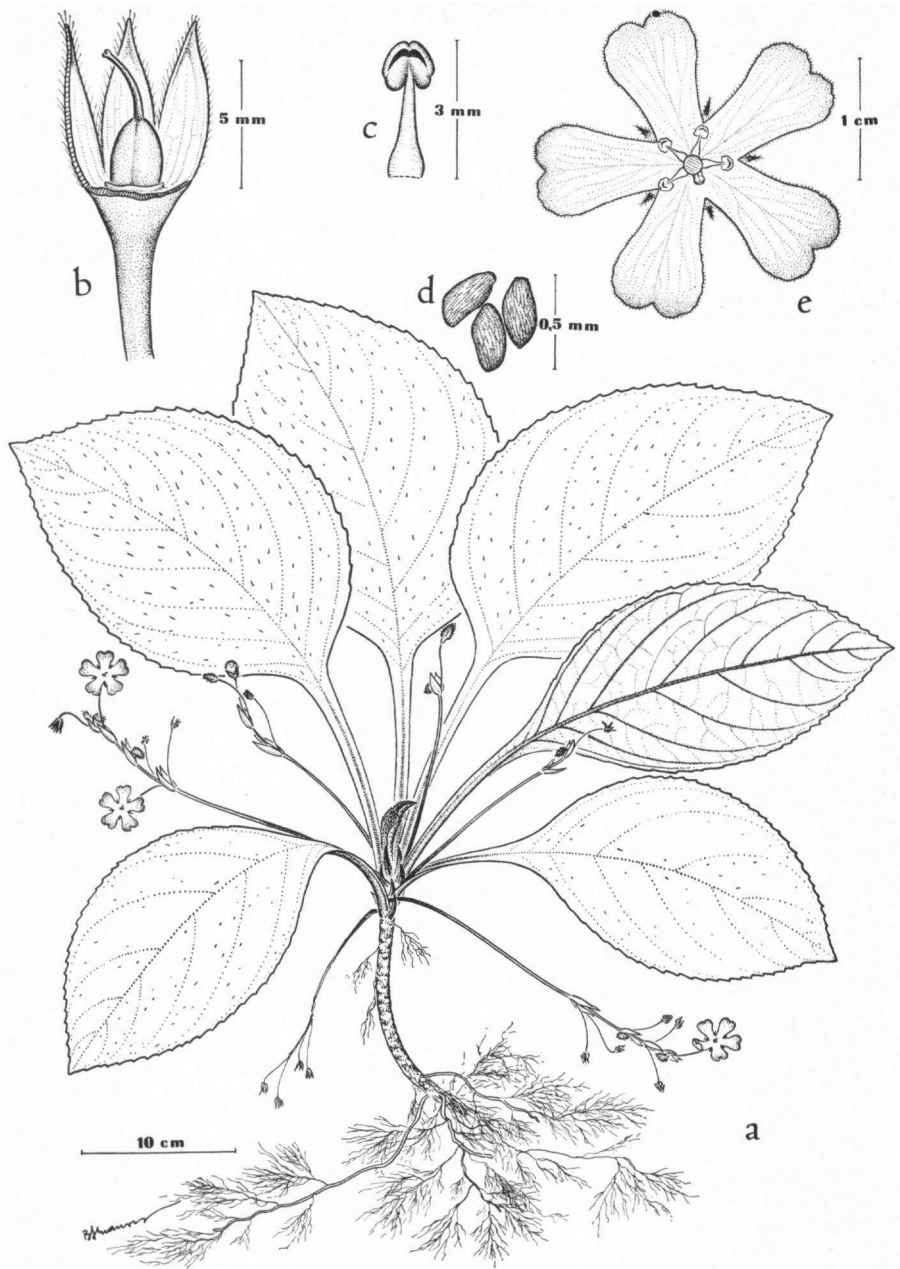
Napeanthus spathulatus Leeuwenberg, sp. nov.

Fig. 1

Herba terrestris foliis magnis rosulatis. Folia spathulata subsessilia membranacea margine serrata subtus ad venas pilosa. Inflorescentia thyrsoides laxa pedunculo elongato glabro. Pedicelli graciles. Flores pentameri. Calyx campanulatus sepalis basi connatis integris glabris. Corolla rotata lobis obovatis apice emarginatis integris. Stamina quattuor parva basi corollae adnata filamentis glabris. Antherae reniformes loculis apice confluentibus. Staminiodium parvum anthera parva profultum. Pistillum glabrum ovario ovoideo et stylo in alastro curvato. Capsula parva quadrivalvis calyce persistente inclusa.

Type: Venezuela: Carabobo: above río San Gián source, E of Los Tanques, S of Borburata, *Steyermark & Manara 103282* (WAG, holotype; isotypes not seen, distributed from VEN).

Terrestrial herb about 30 cm high. Stems short. Leaves rosulate, subsessile, large, 23–38 cm long, membranaceous when living, spathulate, dark green and subglabrous above, paler, pilose on the veins and with many minute stomata-groups beneath; upper portion of blade elliptic or rhomboid, 1.1–2 times as long as wide, 15–24 × 10–13 cm, acuminate at the apex, irregularly serrate-dentate, rather abruptly narrowed into the petiole-like lower portion which is entire and decurrent into the leaf base. Inflorescence axillary, lax, about 15–20 × 5 cm, several-flowered. Peduncle, branches, and pedicels glabrous. Bracts slightly to much longer than the sepals, leafy. Sepals 7–10 × 3 mm, connate for 1–2 mm,



Napeanthus spathulatus Leeuwenberg

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glabrous on both sides. Corolla white with lilac, rotate, actinomorphic (as was observed by Mr. Manara; in WAG only fragments and buds), glabrous on both sides, very thin, 2.6 cm in diam., tube very short; lobes obovate, emarginate at the apex, entire. Stamens 4, inserted at the base of the corolla, glabrous; filaments 2 mm long, widened at the base; anthers reniform, 1.2×1.2 mm; cells divergent at the base, confluent at the apex, dehiscent throughout by a longitudinal slit. Staminode one, much smaller than the stamens, with a sterile anther. Ovary ovoid, glabrous, 2.5×2 mm; style curved in the bud, 4 mm long, glabrous; stigma small. Capsule ovoid, 4-valved, 3.5×2.2 mm. Seeds obliquely ellipsoid, minutely striate.

Paratype: eod. loc., *Steiermark 95407* (WAG, duplicates distributed from VEN).

Ecology: Steep rocky slopes in montane forest. Altitude 1000–1100 m. Flowers in May, fruits in March and May.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is greatly indebted to Dr. Julian A. Steyermark for sending not only herbarium and spirit collections of this new species but also a living specimen by airmail. This unfortunately died immediately, having been damaged by frost, but nevertheless it showed very well the habit. The fine drawing made by Mr. Bruno Manara is of great help for recognizing the species.