

A NEW PEPEROMIA, COLLECTED BY THE
SURINAME EXPEDITION 1948/1949

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Peperomia lanjouwii Yuncker n. sp.

Herba parva delicata subcaespitosa repens, caule pergracili sat conferte piloso, pilis erectis; foliis alternis vel supremis oppositis elliptico-obovatis, apice rotundatis, basi acutis vel subobtusis, supra crispo-pubescentibus subtus glabris vel dissite pubescentibus ciliolatis palmatim 3-5-nerviis; petiolo pergracili; spicis terminalibus axillaribusve gracillimis; drupa obliquo-ovoidea, apice obliqua, stigmatibus subapicali.

A very small, delicate, subcaespitose, herbaceous plant, the stems scarcely 1 mm. in diameter when dry, pilose with spreading hairs, commonly densely so in young growth, branching, the sterile branches comparatively short and stolon-like, the fruiting branches ascending 3-5 cm. Leaves alternate, or the uppermost appearing opposite, the blades elliptic-obovate, the apex rounded, the base acute or obtusish, up to 7 mm. wide and 10 mm. long, but mostly about 3-4 × 5-7 mm., the upper surface crisp-pilose, the lower surface glabrous, or occasional leaves pilose, the margin ciliate, palmately 3- or 5-nerved, the nerves with very slender cross-connecting-anastomosing nervules as viewed by transmitted light, drying membranous and translucent, the blades with a pair of longitudinal brown stripes above and pale green beneath when growing; petiole filiform, mostly 3-5 mm. long, sparsely pilose glabrescent, flattened above and laterally ridged by the decurrent blade margins. Spikes terminal or axillary, very slender, closely flowered, up to 1.5 (or more?) cm. long, the peduncle 5-8 mm. long, thinly pilose glabrescent, the bracts round-peltate, the margin uneven or irregular. Fruit obliquely ovoid with oblique apex and subapical stigma.

Distribution: Known only from Suriname.

Suriname, Nassau Mts., in forest on dead tree trunk near km 7.5, Mar. 11, 1949, J. Lanjouw and J. C. Lindeman n. 2598, type, in herb. Utrecht. The following specimens are fragmentary. They cannot be reconciled with any other species and sufficiently resemble the above cited specimen to warrant including them on a tentative basis: Rikanau, near Moengo (Lindeman n. 5991); Suriname River, Jodensavanne-Mapane Creek area (Lindeman n. 4986); Nassau Mts. Lanjouw & Lindeman n. 2427A; n. 2632; n. 2670; n. 2933).

This species appears to be a member of a group including several South American species characterized by slender, more or less

stoloniferous stems, small leaves and small spikes, of which *P. rotundifolia* is the commonest and most wide-spread. It seems to be most closely related to *P. rotundifolia* and to *P. tafelbergensis*. It differs from both in the shape of the leaves, shorter stolons, and with brown or purple stripes on the upper side of the blade. It also bears some resemblance to *P. obovalis* of Colombia. That species, however, differs in having crisp-puberulent stems, somewhat larger glabrous leaves, and longer spikes. From *P. arenillensis* of Ecuador, which also has purple-striped leaves, it differs in having the lower blade surface glabrous, shorter spikes, etc. The presence of the brown (or purple) stripes on the leaves, the glabrous lower blade surface, and the short stolons are distinctive features. It is named for the senior collector.