

A NEW VACCINIUM (ERICACEAE) FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

J. F. VELDKAMP

Rijksherbarium, Leiden, The Netherlands

During a recent expedition to the Burgers Mountains and Mt. Kegum, Papua New Guinea\*, several collections were made of a *Vaccinium* that appeared to be undescribed. With Sleumer's revision (1967) the new *Vaccinium* keys out to the section *Oarianthe* Schltr. and then to *V. oranjense* J. J. S. (p. 767, lead 41). It may be fitted in the key as follows:

41. Leaves coriaceous and ± stiff, margin markedly revolute. – Corolla ventricose-urceolate or ovoid-globose, (6–)6.5–10 by 5–8 mm Ø.

41a. Small epiphyte or terrestrial, then creeping and ascending to 10 cm with rooting branchlets. Leaves when dry white-glaucous above, veins and veinlets obscure. Calyx distinctly lobed to nearly its base. Corolla pale pink to red, ventricose-urceolate, 5–6 mm Ø. Filaments laxly long-hairy below. Anthers with an obliquely transverse pore. Mt. Wilhelmina.

58. *V. oranjense* var. *oranjense*

41a. Sizable sprawling shrub, epiphytic or terrestrial, c. 2 m high, branchlets not rooting. Leaves when dry glossy dark green above, beneath with raised midrib and less distinct veins. Calyx at first shortly lobed, soon salver-shaped and inconspicuously dentate. Corolla pinkish purple to purple, ovoid-globose, 6–8 mm Ø. Filaments adaxially long-hairy over their entire length. Anthers with a transverse terminal pore. Burgers Mountains, Mt. Kegum. . . . . *V. altiterrae*

41. Leaves chartaceous to subcoriaceous, margin flat or but slightly revolute. – Leaves beneath generally with visibly raised veins and veinlets. (to 42.).

*Vaccinium altiterrae* Veldk., sp. nov.

Frutex; rami basi non radicanes. *Lamina* ovato-elliptica, 12–15 mm longa, 6–10 mm lata, coriacea, basi cuneata vel in petiolum attenuata, marginibus revolutis, integris, pagina superiore nitide viridi nec albo-glaucua in sicco. *Flores* axillares, 1 vel 2, raro 2 vel 3 in racemo brevissimo axe tum glabro; bracteis nullis; pedicello 6–12 mm longo, glabro. *Calyx* post anthesin salveriformis, glaber, lobis vix evolutis, apicibus ciliolatis, eglandulosus. *Corolla* ovoideo-globosa, 6.5–10 mm longa, 6–8 mm Ø, extra glabra, (subroseo-)purpurascens. *Filamenta* adaxialiter fere per totam longitudinem hirsuta; antherae eglandulosae, transversaliter terminaliterque dehiscentes, filamentis breviores. *Discus* stylusque glaber.

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**T y p u s :** *Veldkamp & Vinas 7655*, Papua New Guinea, Western Highlands Dist., Mt. Hagen Range, Mt. Kegum, c. 5° 42' S, 144° 6' E, 3400 m alt., 10-4-1977. (L, holo; isotypes to be distributed to A, LAE, etc.).

Sprawling shrub, epiphytic or terrestrial, branches to 2 m long; innovations greyish-puberulous, indument mixed with reddish, multicellular hairs. *Leaves* rather closely set,  $\pm$  patent, abaxially curved; petioles 3-4 mm long, puberulous; blades ovate-elliptic, 12-15 by 6-10 mm, base cuneate or attenuate into the petiole, margin revolute, entire, basal marginal glands distinct to absent, apex retuse, coriaceous, the upper surface glossy dark green, not whitish-glaucous when dried, glabrous, midrib immersed, the lower surface appressedly red to blackish muriculate, midrib raised, major lateral nerves (1-3 pairs) slightly raised to obscure. *Flowers* 5-merous, axillary, pendulous, 1 or 2, rarely 2 or 3 in a short raceme, the rachis then 4-5 mm long, glabrous, perulae few, basal, 0.75-1.5 by 0.5-0.75 mm, apex more or less thickened, dark, margin ciliolate, firm, brown; bracts and bracteoles not seen, no scars present. *Pedicels* 6-12 mm long, glabrous, becoming thicker upwards, articulated below the calyx. *Calyx* glabrous, green, the lobes at first triangular, c. 1 mm long, much shorter than the tube, acutish, eglandular, apically with some cilia; calyx soon salver-shaped, 7-8 mm  $\emptyset$ , lobes becoming reduced to inconspicuous teeth. *Corolla* ovoid-globose, 6.5-10 by 6-8 mm  $\emptyset$ , glabrous outside, inside retrorsely white pilose, subglabrous towards the base, fleshy, pinkish purple to purple, the lobes triangular, 1-1.5 mm long, glabrous, outer rim white. *Stamens* ecalcarate; filaments 3.75-4.5 mm long, adaxially pubescent over nearly their entire length; anthers 2.25-3 mm long, incl. the c. 1 mm long, inconspicuous tubules, echinulate, eglandular, the pores terminal, transverse. *Disk* glabrous. *Style* 5-5.5 mm long, glabrous. *Ovary* 5-locular, the locules in transverse section slightly reniform by an internal, median, longitudinal ridge. No ripe *fruits* seen.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA. East Sepik Dist.: *Veldkamp & Vinas 7450*, Burgers Mountains, 5° 9' S, 143° 18' E (A, L, LAE, etc.); *WEI 1624 Kores*, ibid, (L, LAE, Wau Ecology Institute). - Western Highlands Dist.: *Veldkamp & Vinas 7655*, Mt. Kegum, c. 5° 42' S, 144° 6' E (A, L, LAE, etc.).

**E c o l .** Edges of *Drimys/Rapanea*-coppices; 3400-3675 m alt.

**N o t e s .** It is rather surprising that this species has not been described nor collected before; it was not rare in the mutually fairly distant localities mentioned above, and the flowers are certainly not so inconspicuous that they are easily overlooked.

The species is named after the Papua New Guinea Highlands in which it grows.

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#### REFERENCE

SLEUMER, H. 1967. *Vaccinium*. Fl. Mal. I, 6: 746-878. Groningen.