

## A NEW SPECIES OF ERIOCAULON FROM SUMATRA

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### *E. pachystroma* van Royen, n. sp. — Fig. 1.

Herba valde caespitosa. Folia linearia, interdum falcata, 0.8—4 × 0.2—0.5 cm, vel basi interdum subabrupte usque ad 1 cm dilatata, glabra, axillis pilis longis albis munita. Pedunculi 0.5—4 cm longi, 5—8-costulati. Bractee involucrantes oblongae vel ovato-oblongae, pallide luteae, glabrae; bractee florales conchatae, late ovatae, panduratae vel oblongo-obovatae, nigrescentes sed interdum basi pallide lutei, extus parte apicali albo-pilosa. Receptaculum longe pilosum. Flos ♂: sepala 3, interdum 2, connata, basi excepta nigrescentia, parte apicale albo-pilosa; petala 3, connata, glandulosa, extus apice et intus omnino albo-vel luteo-pilosa. Flos ♀: sepala 3, libera, naviculata, nigra, extus parte apicali albo-vel luteo-pilosa; petala 3, inaequalia, extus glabra, intus omnino albo-pilosa, glandulosa; ovarium 3-loculare. T y p u s: *van Steenis 9691* in L.

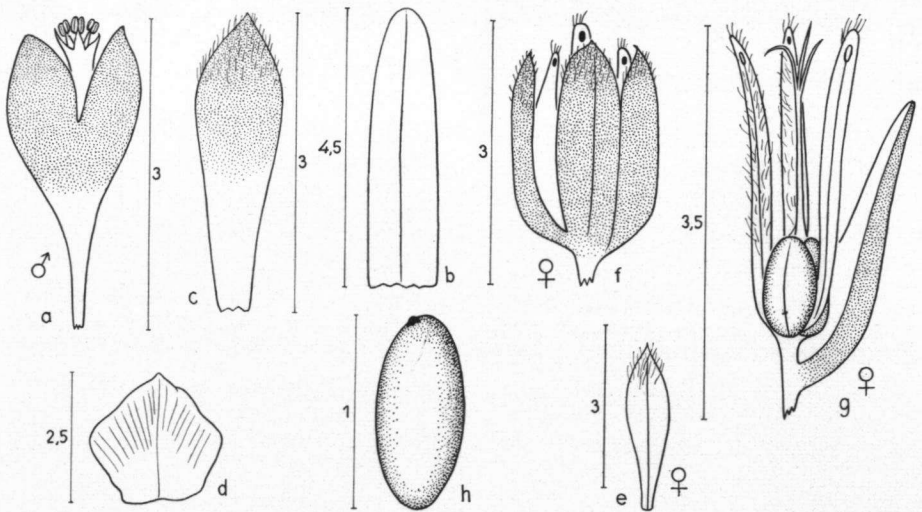


Fig. 1. *Eriocaulon pachystroma* van Royen — a. male flower; b. involucral bract; c and d. floral bracts; e. sepal of female flower; f. female flower; g. female flower, 2 sepals removed to show the petals and the ovary; h. seed (a-c and e-h from *van Steenis 9691*, d. from *van Steenis 8594*).

Herbs forming dense semi-globose pin-cushions or cushion-rings of great extent, up to 5 cm high. *Leaves* linear, sometimes falcate, 0.8—4 by 0.2—0.5 cm, at base sometimes subabruptly broadened to 1 cm, acute, 6—10-nerved, fenestrate, glabrous except for long white hairs in the axils. *Peduncles*

(0.5—)1—2.5(—4) cm long, 5—8-ribbed, glabrous, sheath 0.8—2(—2.5) cm long, at base with long white hairs. *Heads* obovoid to semi-globose, 2—5 by 2—7 mm, involucre bracts oblong or ovate-oblong, 3.5—4.5 by 1—2 mm, obtuse, 1-nerved, glabrous, pale yellowish, floral bracts conchate, broadly ovate to oblong-obovate, 2.5—3.5 by 1—1.5 mm, cuspidate, sometimes scarious along apical part of margin, blackish at least for  $\frac{3}{4}$ , with white hairs on outside in apical part, otherwise glabrous; receptacle with long white hairs. ♂ *Flowers*: sepals 3, very rarely 2, tubuliformously connate but the two lateral ones connate at base only, boat-shaped, 2.5—3 by about 1 mm, obtuse, with white hairs on outside of apical part, blackish for at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; petals 3, tubuliformously united, very unequal in length, the free lobes oblong, the median one about 1 mm long, the lateral ones about 0.5 mm long, with white hairs along margin and on inside, with an ovoid, black gland on inside; stamens 6, anthers black. ♀ *Flowers*: sepals 3, free, boat-shaped, 2.5—3.5 by about 1 mm, cuspidate, black, with white hairs on outside of apical part; petals 3, unequal, oblanceolate, the median one longer than the lateral ones, 2.5—3.5 by about 0.5 mm, obtuse, with white or yellowish hairs on inside, with an ovoid, black gland on inside; ovary deeply 3-lobed, about 1 by 1 mm; style about 1.5 mm long, the three filiform branches moreover about 1.5 mm long. Seeds ellipsoid, dark brown, glabrous.

Type specimen: *van Steenis 9691* in L.

Distribution: Sumatra.

Ecology. Growing on wet slopes or on poor peaty places, small hollows with thin covering of quartz sand, or on stony peaty ridges, at high altitudes, 2950—3400 m, Febr.

Remark. This species closely resembles *E. pulvinatum* van Royen described from New Guinea by the dense cushions, but differs by the unequal petals in both types of flowers, by the oblong or ovate-oblong involucre bracts and by the pubescence of the floral bracts.

SUMATRA. Gajo & Alas Lands, Mt Kemiri, alt. 3000 m: *van Steenis 9691* (L), March, dense cushions on slope together with *Centrolepis*, *Oreobolus*, *Monostachya* and *Scirpus subcapitatus*; Mt Kemiri, E. slope, 3250 m alt., rocky summit, forming cushions-rings: *van Steenis 9661* (L), fl. fr March; Mt Goh Lembuh, near the summit on poor peaty places, often in small hollows with thin covering of quartz sand, alt. 2950 m: *van Steenis 9045* (L), fl. & fr. Febr.; Mt Losir, Central Peak, alt. 3400 m, stony peaty ridge, forms marked semi-globular cushions and in old specimens the central part decays so that "fairy rings" are formed: *van Steenis 8594* (L), fl. Febr.