

# NOTES ON NEW WORLD SAPROPHYTES I

## I. TRIURIDACEAE

P. J. M. MAAS

Instituut voor Systematische Plantkunde, Utrecht

In the course of revision work on Triuridaceae for Flora Neotropica a new species of *Sciaphila* was recognized, which is described here, anticipating the appearance of the Flora Neotropica issue on certain saprophytic plant groups.

*Sciaphila rubra* Maas spec. nov.

Planta saprophytica, gracilis. Caulis ruber, simplex, 5–10 cm altus, c. 1.2 mm diametro. Rhizoma brevis, verticalis, ad 1 mm diametro, radicibus filiformibus, ad 5 cm longis et 0.5 mm crassis, pilis albis, erectis, dense obtectis. Folia squamiformia, 10–15, anguste triangularia, 3.5–5 mm longa, basi saccata. Inflorescentia racemosa, vaga, 1.7–2.5 cm longa, 0.5–0.7 cm lata, 10–15-flora. bractee anguste triangulares, ca 5 mm longae, apice pedicellorum dispositae, fusco-striatae, basi saccatae, apice juventute inflexae. Pedicelli plus minusve patentes, 0.5–1.0 mm longi. Fores hermaphroditi, rubri, 5–6 mm diametro, parte basali tubulosa, 0.5 mm longa. Tepala 4, deltata (ad ovata), 1.7–2.2 mm longa, 1.7–1.8 mm lata, irregulariter fusco- et albo-lineata, intus glabra, extus leviter papillosa. Stamina 2, filamentis filiformibus, 0.8 mm longis, anthera 0.5 mm longa. Carpella 10–25, obovoidea at late obovoidea, 0.3–0.5 mm longa, dense papillosa. Stylus 0.4–0.5 mm longus, glaber. Fructus obovoidei ad fabiformes, 1.5–1.6 mm longi, fusco-striati, apice dense papilloso, bivalves longitudinaliter dehiscentes, seminibus pallide fuscis, ovoideis, 1.4 mm longis.

TYPE. Prance et al. 18736 (holotype, INPA; isotypes, NY, U; in U also pickled material), Igarapé Açará, Reserva Florestal Ducke, 8-VIII-1973, on white sand, Amazonas, Brazil.

DISTRIBUTION. Amazonian Brazil, near Manaus, in high forest on white sand, near borders of streams; flowering in August and September.

BRAZIL, AMAZONAS: Estrada Manaus-Itacoatiara, km 64, Reserva Florestal W. Egler, L. Coêlho 9 (INPA); Reserva Forestal Ducke, near Igarapé Açará, Maas et al. 3073 (INPA, U), Prance et al. 14746 (INPA, NY, U).

*Sciaphila rubra* is one of the 3 hermaphroditic neotropical species of *Sciaphila*. It can be distinguished immediately from both other species (*S. picta* and a yet to be described, insufficiently known species from Guyana) by its many-leaved stems and its non-beared tepals.