

A NEW SPECIES OF PIPER FROM THE INTERIOR OF SURINAME

BY

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PIPER HUMISTRATUM Görts & Kramer, spec. nov.

Suffrutex humilis, caule repente nodoso, ramis foliosis adscendentibus vel raro suberectis, saepe brevibus (ca. 5 cm, usque ad ca. 15 cm), 2–3 mm crassis, dense et plus minusve persistenter crispato-villosis, pilis patentibus, fulvis (statu vivo albis?), ad 1 mm longis. Folia ramis et partibus caulium repentium inserta, manifeste petiolata, petiolis plerumque 1–2 (raro ad 5½) cm longis, basi ima solum brevissime vaginantibus, indumento ei ramorum simili.

Lamina elliptica, 9–13½ cm longa, 5–7½ cm lata, apice obtusa vel rarius subacuta, basi leviter sed manifeste inaequilatera, rotundata sed vix cordulata, latere uno 2–5 mm brevior et angustius rotundato; margine integro; textura chartacea, nec pellucido- nec glanduloso-punctata, opaca; facie superiore, ut videtur, statu vivo nonnumquam fusco- vel griseo-viridis, glaberrima, inferiore pallidiore, grisea, ad nervos maiores ut rami petiolique villosa; costa ad medium vel paulum ultra (vix ad 2/3) venis maioribus praedita, vel raro venae minores superiores nervationem aequalem usque ad apicem similes; venae maiores pro latere 3–5, infimae margine approximatae, arcuatim adscendentes, inter marginem arcuatim connexae et conspicue reticulato-coniunctae, venis infra prominentibus, supra impressis.

Spicae paucae, ad apices ramorum foliis oppositae, maturitate 2–3½ cm longae, deinde 7 mm crassae, sat longe pedunculatae, pedunculo 15–25 mm longo, villosa sicut petioli. Flores creberrimi, bracteis iis et inter se valde appressis simulate axi immersi; bractee subpeltatae, glabrae, limbo carnosus, subsemilunari, apicem floris amplectente. Stamina 4. Stigmata 4, sessilia. Fructus glaber, immersus.

Type: Wessels Boer 1469, Suriname, between Right Branch of Coppename River and Emma Range, 4°10' N. Lat., 56°20' W. Long., on granitic soil in submesophytic forest, 300 m (U). Plate I.

Paratypes (all U): Wessels Boer 1294, junction of Paloemeu and Tapanahony Rs., 3°20' N. Lat., 55°27' W. Long., on hill in mesophytic forest on sandy loam; Jonker & Daniëls 1234, Emma Range, e. of South Camp, on perpendicular sandstone escarpment, 800 m; id. 1294, *ibid.*, 1 km from camp 15, terrestrial in forest, 250 m; id. 1243, *ibid.*, rubble slope

at base of n. part of sandstone escarpment; B. W. 5692, *ibid.*, without precise locality, 400 m, terrestrial, frequent.—The following sterile collection belongs almost certainly to the same species: Kramer, Hekking & Tryon 3319, between Kappelsavanna and Tafelberg, terrestrial in Roraima-savannaforest, ca. 300 m (U).

This species seems to belong to subgenus *Steffensia*, although 4 stigmas are said to be rare in that subgenus; but the venation is more as in that group than as in subgen. *Enckea* where it would otherwise be placed (C. De Candolle, *Piperacearum clavis analytica*. *Candollea* 1: 65, 1923). We have not been able to find any close relatives of this species, distinctive by its creeping habit, obtuse or rarely subacute leaves, short, very compact spikes with clasping bracts, and patent, pale hairs on stems, petioles, veins beneath, and peduncles. One collector described the leaves as brownish and hard to detect among the litter of the forest floor.

A. R. A. GÖRTS-VAN RIJN AND K. U. KRAMER: *A new species of Piper from the interior of Suriname*

PLATE I



BOTANIC MUSEUM
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UTRECHT

5
4
3
2
1
0
1
2
3
4
5
CENTIMETERS

FLORA SURINAMENSIS
Herb. Acad. Rheno-Trai

Piper sp. nov.
Description: Leaves very green above, very
beneath, stem greyish pubescent
toment.

Hab. Inter flum Coppename Dextrum et menses Emma
dixos 4 10' N 56 20' W. 15 km. alt.

Leg. J.G. Wessels Boer
d.d. 24 - 25 - 1963 No. 1000
Det. K. U. Kramer 1964

PIPER HUMISTRATUM Gorts & Kramer
Holotype: I
Det. A.R.A. Gorts Utrecht, II 1966
- van Rijn & K. U. Kramer