

**CALATHEA AMAZONICA, A NEW SPECIES IN CALATHEA
SECTION COMOSAE (MARANTACEAE)
FROM PERU**

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ABSTRACT. *Calathea amazonica*, from Department Amazonas, Peru, is described as new. It belongs to *Calathea* section *Comosae* Petersen. The distinctive foliage is strongly plicate with sharply ascending lateral veins and is usually patterned above with a light green band along the midrib. It is most closely related to *Calathea ursina* Standley from Department Loreto, Peru.

***Calathea amazonica* Kennedy, sp. nov. FIGURE 1.**

Planta ad 0.9 m alta. Lamina foliorum valde plicata anguste elliptica ad 27×18 cm, acuminata, basi cuneata vel acuta, supra viridia secus costa pallide viridia, glabra, subtus velutina; pulvinus, petiolus et vagina villosa, pilis ferrugineis. Spica obconoidea ad 8×5.5 cm, pedunculo 16-31 cm longo elevata; bracteae spiralter dispositae, herbaceae, fertiles 11-20, ellipticae vel rhombico-ellipticae, extus villosae, apice emarginatis, steriles 6-9 summae, anguste ellipticae, apice obtusis, villosae; bracteolis 1 membranaceis; corollae albae vel caeruleae tubus ad 18 mm longus, lobis ca 8 mm longis; staminodium callosum petaloideum prope apicem.

Rosulate herb, 0.5-0.9 m high, bearing 4-7(9) basal leaves. Cataphylls narrowly ovate, apiculate, villous; innermost cataphyll 10-15 cm long. Leaf blade strongly plicate, narrowly elliptic to obovate, apex acuminate, base cuneate to acute, (14) $23-37 \times 6-9.5$ cm. Leaf blade above green, often with a lighter green band ca. 1.5 cm wide along the midrib, glabrous; leaf surface below light green, velvety appressed tomentose with colorless hairs, midrib villous with reddish brown hairs. Pulvinus villous, hairs reddish brown, 1.4-2.3 cm long. Petiole villous, 9-30 cm long. Leaf sheath not auriculate, villous, sericeous at base, 15-30 cm long. Inflorescence terminal on the leafy shoot, 1 per shoot, imbricate, obconoid, topped with a coma of sterile bracts, 6-8 \times 4-5.5 cm, fertile portion 4.5-6.5 \times 3-5 cm. Peduncle villous, 16-31 cm long. Bracts 17-29, dimorphic, 11-20 fertile (subtending flowers), 6-9 sterile, spirally arranged, herbaceous; fertile ones elliptic to rhombic-elliptic, apex emarginate, distinctly bilobed, 2.1-2.8 \times 1.3-1.9 cm, each subtending ca. 4 flower pairs, steriles narrowly elliptic, apex obtuse, 2.8-3.2 \times 1.3-1.6 cm. Outer surface of fertile bracts villous; inner surface glabrous; steriles villous throughout. Bicarinate prophyll membranaceous, narrowly ovate-tri-

angular to narrowly elliptic, apex acute, sparsely pilose along sides above, more densely so toward base, ca. 2.2-2.4 \times 0.7-0.8 cm, 0.5-0.6 cm wide, carina to carina. Secondary bract membranaceous, ovate-triangular, apex acute, glabrous, ca. 1.2 \times 0.6 cm. Bracteoles 1 per flower pair, membranaceous, medial, carinate, 0.9-1.1 cm long and ca. 0.15 cm wide. Flowers white (fide *Ancuash 1142*) or sky blue (fide *Kayap 1136*). Sepals membranaceous, oblong, apex rounded, glabrous, ca. 11-12 \times ca. 2 mm. Corolla ca. 26 mm long, tube glabrous, ca. 17-18 mm long; corolla lobes subequal, elliptic, glabrous, ca. 8 mm long. Callose staminode spatulate, petaloid apically, ca. 9 mm long. Cucullate staminode ca. 4.5-5 mm long. Anther ca. 1.5 mm long. Ovary glabrous, ca. 2-2.5 mm long. Capsule unknown.

TYPE: Perú. Dept. Amazonas: Río Cenepa vicinity of Huampami, ca. 5 km E of Chávez Valdivia, en bosque secundario, 200-250 m, ca. 04°30'S, 78°30'W, 1978, *E. Ancuash 1142* (holotype MO; isotype UBC).

PARATYPES. Perú. Dept. Amazonas: Río Cenepa vicinity of Huampami, ca. 5 km E of Chávez Valdivia, 3 km arriba de la boca de la Huampami, en bosque secundario, 200-250 m, ca. 04°30'S, 78°30'W, 25 Jul 1978, *E. Ancuash 1098* (MO); Río Cenepa vicinity of Huampami, ca. 5 km E of Chávez Valdivia, el camino de Chigkan entsa, primary forest, 200-250 m, ca. 04°30'S, 78°30'W, 8 Aug 1978, *A. Kujikat 188* (MO); Río Cenepa, 10 km E of Huampami, primary forest, 1200 ft, 10 Oct 1972, *B. Berlin 221* (MO); approx. 10 km N of Quebrada Huampami, primary forest, 600-800 ft, 24 July 1974, *B. Berlin 1778* (MO); Huampami, directly in cultivated land or on edge, chacra associates, 600-800 ft, 3 Aug 1974, *B. Berlin 1975* (MO); Quebrada Huampami, primary forest, 1020 ft, 1 Nov. 1972, *R. Kayap 9* (MO); Quebrada Huampami, monte, 600 m, *R. Kayap 1136* (MO); Al lado de Huampami, monte, 800-850 ft, 31 Jul 1974, *R. Kayap 1419* (MO).

Calathea amazonica is readily distinguished from other Peruvian species by the basal, strongly plicate leaves with lateral veins angled sharply upward (angle of divergence from midrib $\leq 25^\circ$); the villous leaf sheath,

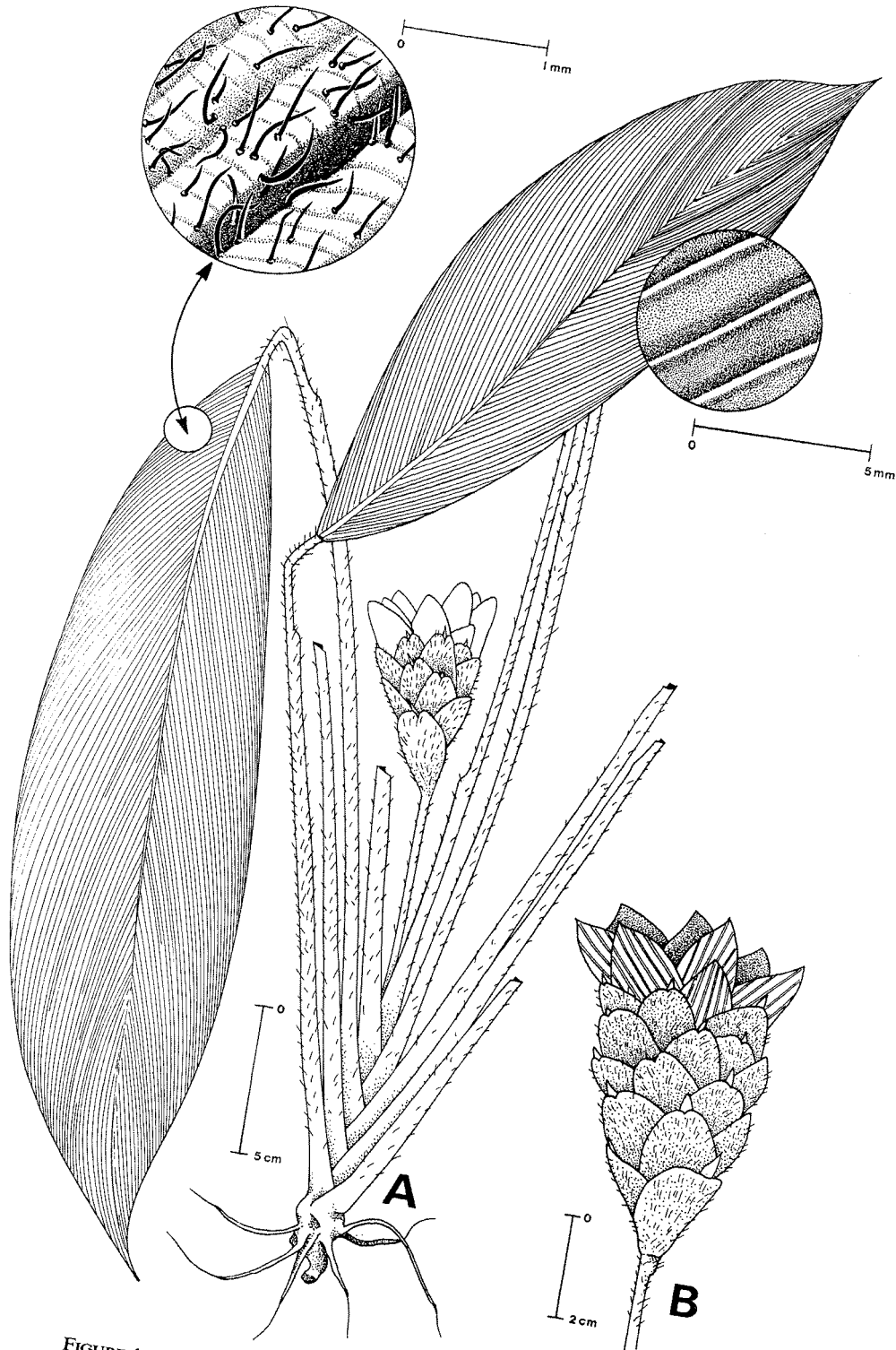


FIGURE 1 A-B. *Calathea amazonica*. A. Habit. B. Inflorescence.

petiole and pulvinus; the dimorphic, villous bracts and the membranaceous bracteoles. This combination of characters distinguishes it from all other known species of *Calathea*. *Calathea amazonica* is most closely related to *C. ursina* Standley, differing from the latter by the strongly plicate, adaxially glabrous vs. villous leaf blades with lateral veins angled more sharply upward (16–25° vs. 45–26° in lower two-thirds of blade) and the membranaceous vs. claviculate bracteoles. In Macbride's (1936 p. 742) Flora of Peru key to *Calathea*, *C. amazonica* would key out somewhat problematically either with *C. lanata* or with *C. veitchiana* depending whether the peduncles were considered conspicuously or not conspicuously villous/hairy. It can be accommodated by the addition (above *C. lanata*) of the couplet: Leaves markedly plicate, angle of divergence of lateral veins in lower half of blade 16–25° . . . *C. amazonica*. Leaves shallowly scalloped, not plicate, angle of divergence of lateral veins in lower half of blade >25° . . . *C. lanata*. The inclusion of *C. allouia* in the key following *C. lanata* is in error as it does not fit lead A:

"A. Terminal bracts dissimilar, the sterile forming a coma . . ." The character of basal fertile and apical sterile bracts is present only in *C.* section *Comosae* and the "*Calathea capitata* Group" (Kennedy 1984 p. 15, 1988 p. 120). As all bracts are fertile in *C. allouia*, it should be excluded.

Common names given for this species are: "suwig duka" (*Ancuash 1142*); "suwin duka" (*Ancuash 1098*); "(kumpahi) suinduka" (*Berlin 1778*).

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