

## A NEW ERIOCAULON FROM NEW GUINEA (ERIOCAULACEAE)

J. M. MANGEN

23 Rue Astrid, 1143 Luxembourg

### SUMMARY

After a visit to Indonesia, Irian Jaya, the author described a new species of the genus *Eriocaulon*, *E. distichoides*, based on a specimen remarkable by its distichous leaves.

### *Eriocaulon distichoides* Mangen, *spec. nov.* – Fig. 1.

Herbae perennes caespitosae pulvinos densos formantes foliis distichis coriaciis linearibus apice acuto. Inflorescentiae sessiles floribus 5 ad 7. Receptaculum pilis sericeis dispersis. Semina pilis albis transverse seriatis. – *T y p u s*: *Mangen 1164* (L; iso A, BO, LUX, TL/ICITV), 18 Aug. 1984, Indonesia, Irian Jaya, Baliem-Wamena R. valley, 10 km north of Mt Trikora.

Perennial herb, 2.5–3 cm high, growing in dense cushions. *Leaves* distichous, coriaceous, glabrous except for a few long white hairs in inside at base, linear, 15–20 by 3–4 mm, 10–12-nerved, acute at tip, not clearly fenestrate or tessellate. *Inflorescence* sessile with 5–7 flowers. One single involucre bract, yellowish, glabrous, broadly obovate, 3.5–4 by 3 mm. Floral bracts boat-shaped, blackish at upper third, glabrous or with a few silky hairs at outside tip, 3–3.5 mm long. Receptacle with scattered, long silky hairs. *Male flowers*: sepals 3, blackish in upper half, with short yellowish hairs at tip, connate only at the very base, boat-shaped, 2.5–3 by 1 mm. Petals 3, tubuliformly connate only in lower 1/4, glabrous or sometimes with short white hairs at tip, black gland on inside below tip. Free parts fleshy, obovate, acute at tip. Stamens 6, in two rows, three of them partly fixed to the petals, anthers black. Abortive gynaecium present as a black, 2- or 3-lobed organ in the centre of the flower. *Female flowers*: sepals 3, blackish at upper third, with short yellowish hairs at tip on outside, entirely free, lateral ones boat-shaped, 3–3.5 by 0.5–1 mm, oblanceolate. Petals 3, fleshy, with yellowish short hairs at tip and silky hairs on inside at lower half. Black gland on inside below tip, entirely free, obovate to oblanceolate, 3.5–4 by 1 mm, lateral petals slightly boat-shaped. Ovary 3-celled. Placentation axile, ovule anatropous. Style 1.5–2 mm long, stigmas 1 mm long. *Seeds* ellipsoid, 1 mm long, dark reddish brown, transverse rows with short whitish hairs.

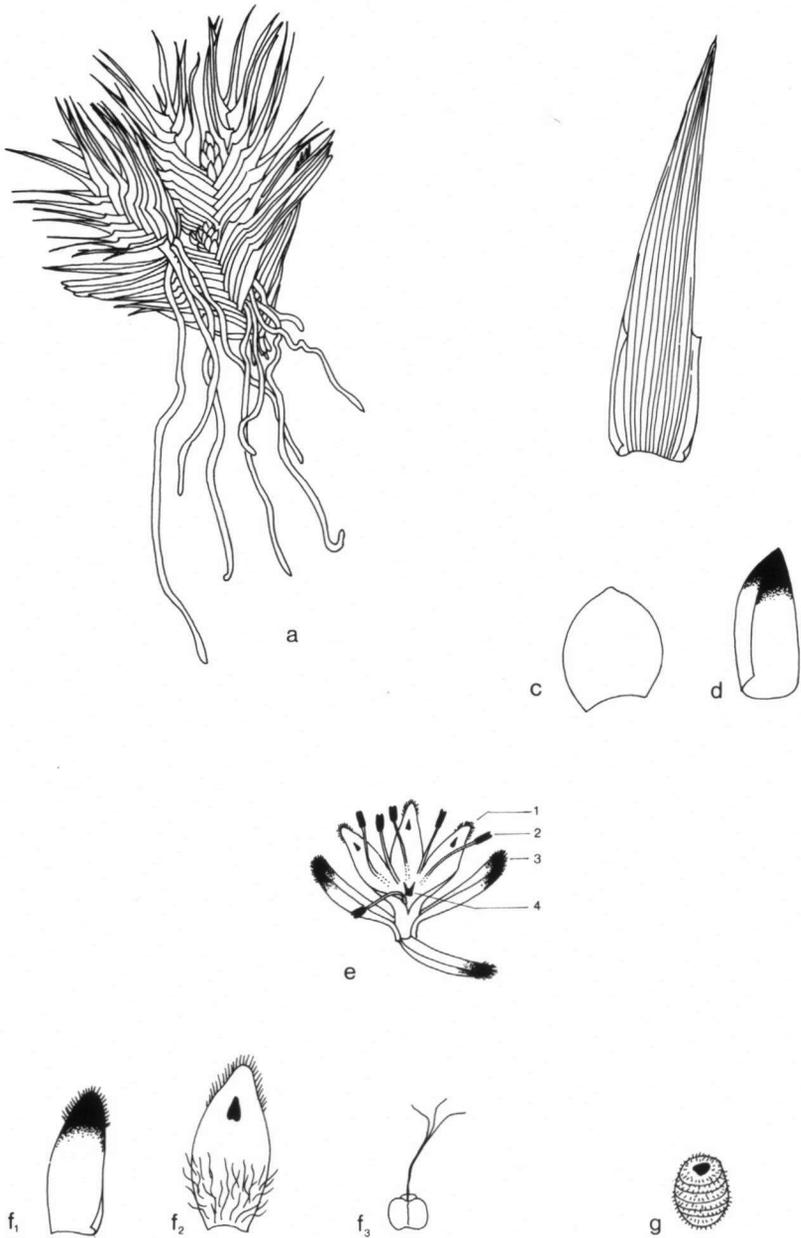


Fig. 1. *Eriocaulon distichoides* Mangen (Mangen 1164). a. Habit,  $\times 1$ ; b. leaf,  $\times 4$ ; c. involucral bract; d. floral bract; e. male flower with 1. petal, 2. anther, 3. sepal, 4. remnant of gynaecium; all  $\times 6$ ; f. female flower: f<sub>1</sub>. sepal,  $\times 5$ ; f<sub>2</sub>. petal,  $\times 6$ ; f<sub>3</sub>. gynaecium,  $\times 5$ ; g. seed,  $\times 10$ .

**Distribution.** Indonesia: Irian Jaya, Baliem-Wamena R. valley north of Mt Trikora.

**Ecology.** In boggy, subalpine short grassland; 3100 m altitude. Fl. fr. July–Aug.

**Notes.** The major difference between *E. distichoides* and the already known species of *Eriocaulon* is the distichous character of the leaves! This character has not yet been observed in the genus. The most related species are *E. alpinum* and *E. pulvinatum*, also occurring on Mt Trikora. The major differences with these two species are the coriaceous linear leaves, the sessile inflorescence (although some specimens of *E. alpinum* have subsessile inflorescences) and the hairiness of the seeds. The distinction from *E. tubiflorum*, another species known from Mt Trikora, is very evident in the floral characters, *E. tubiflorum* possessing small filmy petals in both male and female flowers.