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# *Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till (Bromeliaceae), a new endemic species from northwestern Paraguay. Contribution to the study of the flora and vegetation of the Chaco. IX.

WALTER TILL  
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## ABSTRACT

TILL, W. & S. TILL (1995). *Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till (Bromeliaceae), a new endemic species from northwestern Paraguay. Contribution to the study of flora and vegetation of the Chaco. IX. *Candollea* 50: 453-456. In English, English and Spanish abstracts.

*Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till is described as a new species. It is separated from the nearest related species, *T. esseriana* Rauh & L. B. Smith, by its larger habit up to 30 cm, by its subtomentose leaf indument, by its much longer inflorescence scape, and by its densely lepidote floral bracts and sepals.

## RESUMEN

TILL, W. & S. TILL (1995). *Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till (Bromeliaceae), una nueva especie endémica del noroeste de Paraguay. Contribución al estudio de la flora y de la vegetación del Chaco. IX. *Candollea* 50: 453-456. En Inglés, resúmenes en inglés y en español.

*Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till es descrita como una especie nueva, endémica del noroeste de Paraguay. Se diferencia de la especie más próxima, *T. esseriana* Rauh & L. B. Smith, por su tallo más largo de hasta 30 cm, por el indumento subtomentoso de las hojas, por el escapo más largo y por las brácteas florales y los sépalos densamente lepidotos.

**KEY-WORDS:** BROMELIACEAE — *Tillandsia* — Taxonomy — Neotropics — New species.

## Introduction

During the revision of Bromeliaceae specimens recently collected in the Chaco region in Paraguay and kept in the herbarium of the Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques at Genève (G) it became evident that five collections from the Cerro Cnel. F. Cabrera represent a single undescribed taxon. Closer examination of the specimens and comparison with several possibly related species have revealed that the plant from the Cerro Cabrera is representing a new species which is described here and named after its collector. Our special thanks go to Mr. Lorenzo Ramella for making available for our studies all his material of the new species.

### *Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till, spec. nov. (Fig. 1, 2)

A *Tillandsia esseriana* Rauh & L. B. Smith caule distincto, (5-)10-30 cm longo, indumento foliorum subtomentoso non adpresso, foliis margine laminarum supra vaginas ciliato-lepidotis, scapo inflorescentiae longiore et bracteis florigeris sepalisque perlepidotis non glabrescentibus differt.



Fig. 1. — *Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till  
Habit and one adaxial sepal in dorsal view.  
[*Ramella*, L. LR2879, Isotype (WU)].



Fig. 2. — *Tillandsia ramellae* W. Till & S. Till  
Natural habit in Cerro Cabrera (Dep. Alto Paraguay, Paraguay).

**Holotypus:** PARAGUAY. Chaco: "Cerro Cnel. F. Cabrera, 640-680 m s.m." [19°39'S 061°44'W], 25.IV.1989, *Ramella*, L. LR2879 (G!). **Isotypi:** (CTES!, FCQ!, G!, MO!, WU!).

Plant (5-)10-30 cm long stemmed, with strong lignified roots functioning as holdfasts; stems curved upwards, with densely spiral phyllotaxis. Leaves narrowly triangular, (12-)15-20 cm long, densely subtomentose lepidote throughout, longitudinally nerved when dry, the sheaths ovate, ca. 3 × 2 cm, scarcely separated from the blades, blades somewhat involute, upright spreading. Inflorescence scape ascending, slightly to distinctly exceeding the leaves, 2,5-3 mm in diameter, subglabrous, completely covered by scape bracts. Scape bracts imbricate, acuminate, (3-)4-5 cm long, exceeding the internodes, abaxially densely pale lepidote. Inflorescence usually simple, more rarely with an additional lateral spike (only *Fortunato & al.* 3736 in G has a three spiked inflorescence), distichous flowered, usually with two sterile bracts at the base, composed of (3-)4-7(-9) flowers, rachis straight, angled, lepidote, rachis internodes 8-10 mm long. Flowers subsessile, imbricate at anthesis, somewhat spreading at fruit and then slightly exposing the rachis. Floral bracts 3-4 times as long as the rachis internodes, lanceolate, acute, ecarinate, incarnate, abaxially densely pale lepidote, (25-)27-30(-34) mm long, exceeding the sepals. Sepals oblanceolate, subfree, membranaceous, abaxially densely pale lepidote except for the scarious margins, adaxially glabrous, nerved when dry, broadly acute, the adaxial ones carinate, (20-)23-27 mm long, ca. 6 mm wide. Petals 40-50 mm long, the claw linear, ca. 3 mm wide, the blade obovate, 4-6 mm wide, with slightly undulate margins and rounded at the apex and revolute, violet (*Ramella* !). Stamens about equaling the throat of the cololla, filaments flat, linear, anthers linear, ca. 8 × 0,5 mm, dorsifixed near the base, style much longer than the ovary, stigma lobes erect, spreading.

**Paratypes:** PARAGUAY. Chaco: ; "Cerro Cnel. F. Cabrera, 600 m s.m." [19°39'S 061°44'W], 20.VI.1988, *Ramella*, L. LR2305 (G!); "Cerro Cnel. F. Cabrera, ancantilados, 640 m s.m." [19°39'S 061°44'W], 23.IV.1989, *Ramella*, L. LR2822 (G!, K!, LPB!, US!, WU!); "Cerro Cnel. F. Cabrera, arboles y acantillados del cerro, 640-700 m s.m." [19°39'S 061°44'W], 23.IV.1989, *Ramella*, L. LR2825 (G!, WU!). **Alto Paraguay (ex Chaco):** "Cerro Cabrera (19°38'S, 61°42'W)", 2.XI.1992, *Fortunato*, R., *Ramella*, L. & R. *Palese* 3736 (BAB, G!).

This remarkable new species unfortunately is known to the authors only from 19 herbarium plants with inflorescences mainly in postflowering states. Only the holotype and one isotype in G each exhibit one anthetic flower. Although its novelty is out of discussion, characters of fresh pollen and detailed stigma morphology are lacking as well as actual petal color and eventual flower odor.

Phytogeographically it seems to link the Andean relatives from *Tillandsia* subgenus *Anoplophytum* with the east Paraguayan *T. esseriana*. It probably represents an isolated remnant population from pleistocene periods of cooler and drier climates.