

***VACCINIUM UTTERIDGEI* (ERICACEAE),
A NEW SPECIES (SECT. *BRACTEATA*)
FROM INDONESIAN NEW GUINEA**

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A new species of *Vaccinium* section *Bracteata* (Ericaceae), *Vaccinium utteridgei* Argent, presently only known from the type locality in Papua (West New Guinea), Indonesia, is described. Its distinctive characters are discussed and comments made on the differences between this and related species.

Keywords. Ericaceae, Indonesian flora, new species, *Vaccinium utteridgei*.

INTRODUCTION

Vaccinium L. (Ericaceae) is a large, almost world-wide, genus of 400–500 species. *Vaccinium* sect. *Bracteata* Nakai, with about 165 species, is predominantly Malesian and nearly half the species are recorded from New Guinea, an island known to have high endemism but which is still relatively undercollected. Only 11 species in this section were recorded outside Malesia by Sleumer (1966–67). Only two new species, *Vaccinium obatapaquiniorum* Takeuchi (Takeuchi, 2008) and *V. tectiflorum* Danet (Danet, 2005), have been added to *Vaccinium* sect. *Bracteata* in New Guinea since the *Flora Malesiana* account (Sleumer, 1966–67).

SPECIES DESCRIPTION

***Vaccinium utteridgei* Argent, sp. nov.**

Similar to *Vaccinium acrobacteatum* K.Schum. but differing in the predominantly ovate not obovate to sub-spathulate leaves, the leaves smaller than in *V. acrobacteatum*, up to 25 × 16 mm vs. up to 90 × 55 mm. The racemes of this new species are glabrous except for sparse brown glandular hairs (without the dense muriculate hairs of *Vaccinium acrobacteatum*). The corolla is narrower than in *Vaccinium acrobacteatum* (up to 3 mm wide vs. 4–5 mm) and totally lacks the muriculate glands outside which are a conspicuous feature of *V. acrobacteatum*. Superficially close to the widespread (western) *Vaccinium lucidum* (Blume) Miq. which has a similar delicate habit, but this species is not recorded from New Guinea and differs significantly in the predominantly obovate leaves, hairs on the inside of

the corolla and lack of the tooth-like, papillose back walls of the anther tubules of this new species. – Type: Cultivated at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh under accession number 20002023, 11 vi 2012, *G. Argent* 00585A (holo BO; iso A, E, K, LAE). Original collecting locality: Indonesia, Province of Papua (West New Guinea), Freeport project area south of Puncak Jaya, ridge by army camp, mile 64, c.4°12'S 137°05'E. **Fig. 1.**

Terrestrial sprawling shrub to c.80 cm. *Twigs* rounded, smooth, tomentose with a moderate covering of grey-white hairs. *Leaves* laxly spirally arranged, but distichous in disposition, ovate, elliptic or more rarely sub-orbicular, blade 17–25 × 9–16 mm; apex obtuse to rounded; base rounded or very broadly cuneate; margin entire, flat or very slightly recurved, narrowly sub-cartilaginous with one or a pair of marginal glands c.1.5 mm from the base of the petiole but often completely lacking. *Mid-vein* impressed above throughout its length, flat or very slightly raised below, lateral veins obscure or with a nearly basal pair curved and ascending to just above the middle of the leaf, reticulation obscure when fresh, fine but distinct when dry, sparsely glandular hairy above and below at first and with some tomentose hairs at the base of the mid-vein adaxially. *Petiole* 3–4 × c.1 mm, grooved above, tomentose. *Racemes* from the upper leaf axils, 5–8-flowered. *Flowers* hanging, rachis 20–25 mm, slender, c.1 mm in diameter, glabrous, pedicels 15–18 mm, slender, with sparse brown glandular hairs especially distally. *Bracts* elliptic, concave, 4–6 × 1–1.5 mm, completely glabrous, caducous well before anthesis. *Calyx* tube pyriform, c.3.5 × 2.5 mm, green, with sparse brown glandular hairs, the lobes 1.5–2 × c.1.5 mm, with some brown glandular hairs abaxially and with a minute, irregular fringe of white hairs on the margins, without a prominent terminal or lateral glands. *Corolla* maroon-pink, glabrous both outside and inside, narrowly urceolate, 8–9 × c.3 mm at the base, tapering to c.1.5 mm distally; the lobes erect, white, c.0.7 × 0.8 mm, broadly ovate, minutely papillose both inside and out. *Filaments* 2.5 mm, with long spreading white hairs from near the base to about half-way, glabrous and becoming very slender distally, anther cells oblongoid, c.1 mm, very finely echinulate, without spurs or glandular hairs; the tubules very short, c.0.7 mm including the erect, tooth-like, minutely papillose back walls. *Disc* green, glabrous. *Style* c.7.5 mm, columnar, without hairs but minutely papillose. *Stigma* circular, papillose. *Fruit* shiny, black, sub-spherical, 5–6 mm in diameter.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality.

Ecology. Collected at c.2700 m in sub-alpine ericaceous shrubbery on ridge.

Conservation status. Data Deficient. There was no indication from the details on the collection of its abundance. It is not in an area with a particular threat to the vegetation from the mining operation.

Etymology. Named in honour of Tim Utteridge, one of the collectors of this species, able botanist and great field companion.

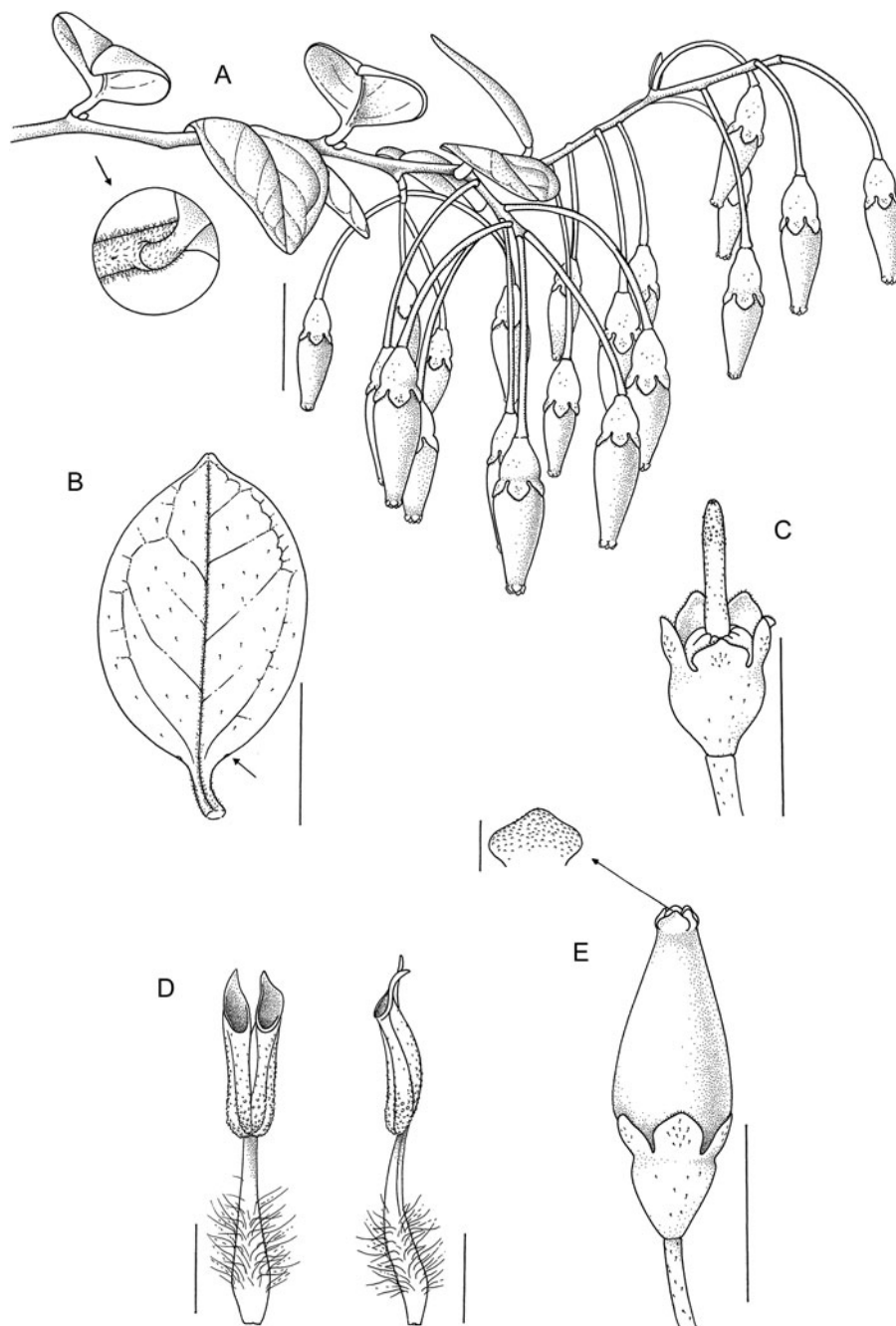


FIG. 1. *Vaccinium utteridgei* Argent. A, habit with inset to show the indumentum on the stem; B, leaf with arrow to show the position of the basal glands; C, flower with corolla and stamens removed; D, stamens front and side view; E, flower with close-up of a corolla lobe. Scale bars = 1 cm except close-up in E = 1 mm.

Additional collection. INDONESIA. Province of Papua (West New Guinea), Freeport project area south of Puncak Jaya, Ridge by army camp, Mile 64, c.4°12'S 137°05'E, 4 xi 2000 (fruit only), *G. Argent*, *R.J. Johns* & *T. Utteridge* 00585 (BO, E, K).

Seed taken from the wild collection, *Argent et al.* 00585, was grown at Edinburgh and the type was gathered from the cultivated collection when it flowered.

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