

A NEW SPECIES OF RHYNCHOLACIS

(PODOSTEMACEAE)

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(*Rijksherbarium, Leiden*)

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In the Podostemaceous material collected by R. E. Schultes and his companions in 1952, one new species in the genus *Rhyncholacis* turned up, characterized by its small size. This species is described below:

Rhyncholacis minima van Royen, n. sp. — *Fig. 1.*

Herba minima, acaulis. Folia repetito-furcata, usque ad 2.5 cm longa; pinnae primariae usque ad 1 cm longae, laciniis ultimis oblongo-spathulatis, enervatis, obtusis vel subacutis. Flos solitarius, pedicello 1.1-2 cm longo. Tepala 5-7, linearia, acuta. Stamina 5-8; anthera obtusa. Ovarium ovoideo-ellipsoideum, 1.5-2.5 × c. 1 × c. 0.7 mm, costis medianis subalatis, costulis aliis indistinctis; styli oblongo-spathulati, c. 0.5 mm longi, basi triangularis in sectio transversa, paulo coherentes. Fructus ovario aequalis, sed costulis distinctioribus.

Small stemless herb up to 2 cm large. Leaves repeatedly forked, up to 2.5 cm long, petiole 4-7 by 0.5-1.5 mm, compressed, widened and sheath-like at base, nerveless, primary pinnae up to 1 cm long, ascending at an angle of c. 55°, ultimate divisions few, oblong-

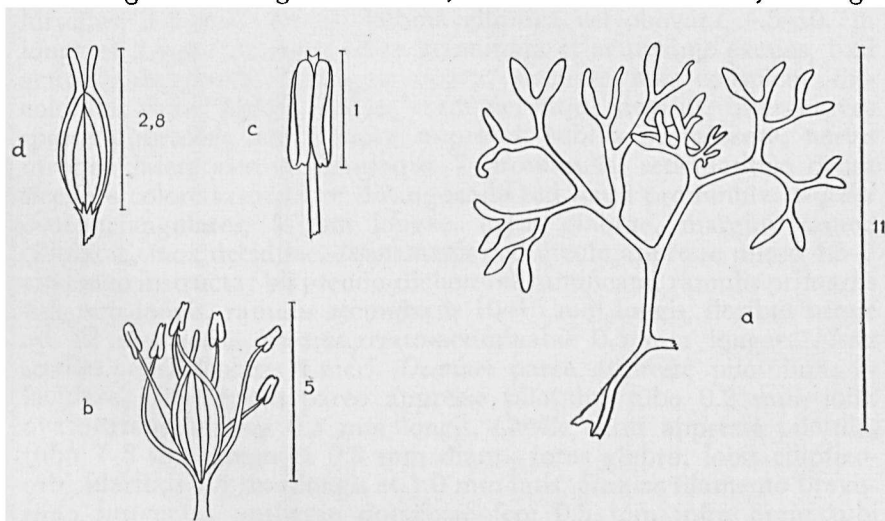


Fig. 1. *Rhyncholacis minima* van Royen; a: leaf; b: flower; c: anther and part of filament; d: capsule. (From the type specimen) (L).

spatulate, 1–2 by c. 0.2 mm, obtuse or subacute, nerveless. Flowers solitary, pedicel 1.1–2 cm long, juvenile spathella unknown, mature one tubuliform, 4–6 mm long. Tepals 5–7, linear, c. 0.3 mm long, acute. Stamens 2-tipped, base of thecae rounded. Ovary ovoid-ellipsoid, 1.5–2.5 by c. 0.7 mm, obtuse or rounded at either end, midrib of each carpel only slightly winged, the two other ribs indistinct, styles oblong-spatulate, c. 0.5 mm long, rounded or retuse at apex, 3-sided at base and slightly cohering. Capsule similar to ovary but the ribs more distinct and also the ribs in the margins of the two valves clearer developed.

Type specimen. *Schultes & Baker & Cabrera 18554* in L., dupl. in US.

Distribution. Brazil, prov. Uaupès, Rio Kuduyari, tributary of Rio Uaupès, middle and lower course, Raudal Itapimina, alt. c. 250, fl. and fr. Nov.

Remarks. This species differs from all species in the genus *Rhyncholacis* by its size which is even smaller than that of *R. oligandra* Wedd. and *R. nitelloides* (Wedd.) van Royen. From both species *R. minima* moreover differs in the shorter and broader ultimate divisions of the leaves.