

***Elleanthus lentii* Barringer, sp. nov.**

Species *E. caricoide* Nash affinis, sed ab ea foliis majoribus, bracteis longioribus purpureis, sepalis glabris, ovario longiore, callis labii parvulis ecarinatis, lamina labii eglandulosa, columna alata differt.

Epiphyte; stems erect, branching from the base, caespitose, to 50 cm tall, terete, leafy above. Leaves spiralled; base sheathing, 2.5 cm long, glabrous, sometimes spotted, older sheaths becoming fibrous; lamina narrowly lanceolate, 12–15 cm long, 1–1.5 cm wide, plicate, glabrous, the base narrowed, the apex acuminate, triapiculate. Flowers in terminal, subcapitate spikes; bracts spiralled, lanceolate, 2–3 cm long, 5–8 mm wide near the base, red-purple, the margin chartaceous, the apex long acuminate; ovary and pedicel 7 mm long, slightly furfuraceous; sepals white, ovate-oblong, 7–10 mm long, 2–3 mm wide, short-acuminate, glabrous; petals white, oblong-spatulate, 5–9 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide near the apex, acute; lip white, broadly flabelliform, encircling the column, 8–10 mm long, 8–10 mm wide, the base slightly gibbous, with a pair of loose, ovoid, centrally attached calli without keels, the lamina slightly 3-lobed, the midlobe slightly concave; column straight, 6–11 mm long, winged toward the base. Fruit and seed unknown.

TYPE: COSTA RICA. PROV. ALAJUELA: near Río San Luis, 15 km NW of San Ramón, 850 m, 17 Jun 1972, *Lent 2595* (HOLOTYPE: F; ISOTYPE: CR).

Additional specimens studied: COSTA RICA. PROV. ALAJUELA: Monteverde, Peñas Blancas, vert. Atlántico, en arbol en orilla del sendero, 1000–1100 m, 18 Jun 1977, *Dryer 1504* (F); road heading NW from San Ramón, between Los Angeles Norte and the Río Catarata, 950 m, 16 Jun 1983, *Barringer 3206* (F).

Elleanthus lentii can be easily distinguished from *E. caricoides* by its purple bracts and larger leaves. It is found above 700 m on the Caribbean slope of the

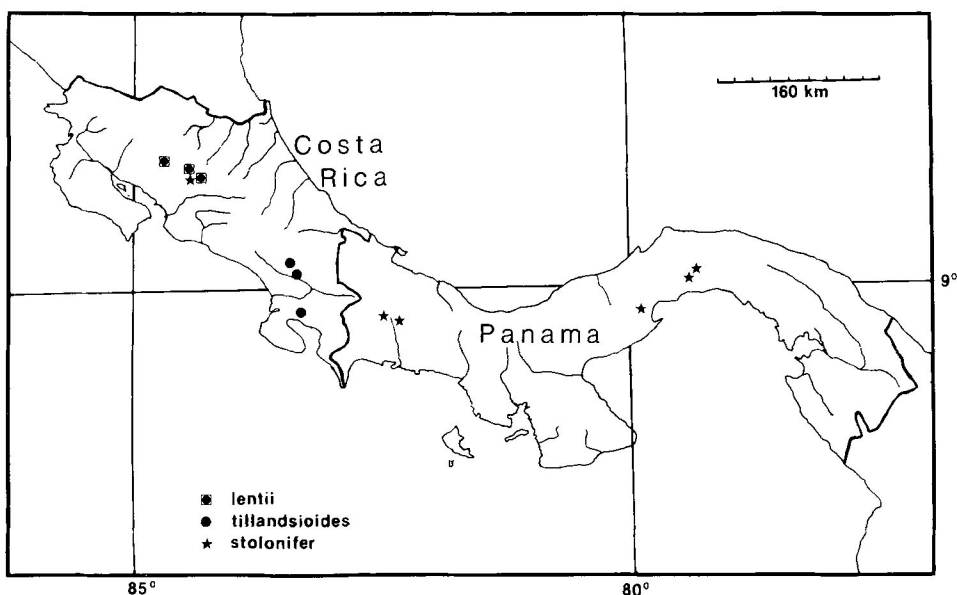


FIG. 1. Distribution of *E. lentii*, *E. stolonifer*, and *E. tillandsioides*.

Cordillera de Guanacaste (Fig. 1) whereas *E. caricoides* is found only below 500 m on the Caribbean coastal plain. *Elleanthus lentii* is sometimes misidentified as *E. lepidus* (Reichb. f.) Reichb. f. [= *E. caravata* (Aubl.) Reichb. f.] but that species has yellow flowers and hispid leaf sheaths. Further collections are needed to determine the range of flowering period.

The subcapitate inflorescence would seem to place this species in the section *Cephalelyna* (Reichb. f.) Reichb. f. but the column lacks the prominent mentum that characterizes that section. It is best classified in section *Stachydelyna* (Reichb. f.) Reichb. f., characterized by a terminal, spicate inflorescence, spirally arranged bracts, free lateral sepals, and angulate column without mentum. It is closely related to *E. caricoides*.