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A NEW PEPEROMIA FROM JAMAICA. — Botanical exploration in the John Crow Mountains of eastern Jamaica has brought to light new species of plants in nearly every family of plants occurring in the area, suggesting a long history of at least ecological isolation from the rest of the island. Among the undescribed species collected in recent years is the following diminutive *Peperomia*, which has been found several times on the sheltered sides of overhanging limestone cliffs.

***Peperomia lewisii* Proctor, sp. nov.**

Herba parva et fragilis; caulibus breve pilosis, plerumque sine ramis, recurvato-pendentibus, 3-8 cm. longis, non plus quam 1 mm. diametro. Foliae oppositae vel paucae alternatae 1.5-2 (-2.5) cm. longae, includenti petiolum gracile 3-4 mm. longum, lamina obovato-elliptica, apice rotundata, base cuneata, 0.5-1 cm. lata; supra glabrosa praeter prope marginem, griseo-virida vivens, tenebrosior sicca; infra hispidulosa, pallide-virida vel punicea. Spicae 1-3, terminales vel solae in axillis superioribus, graciles, glabrosae, 1-3 cm. longae; pedunculi hispidulosi, circa 8 mm. longi; drupae circa 0.5 mm. diametro, fuscae sicca.

Small, fragile herb; stems short-pilose, mostly unbranched, recurved-pendent, 3-8 cm. long, not more than 1 mm. in diameter. Leaves opposite or a few alternate, 1.5-2 (-2.5) cm. long (including the slender, 3-4 mm. long petiole), the blade ovate-elliptic, apex rounded, base cuneate, 0.5-1 cm. broad; upper surface glabrous except near the mar-

gin, gray-green when fresh, darker when dry; lower surface hispidulous, pale green or pinkish. Spikes 1-3, terminal, or solitary in the upper axils, slender, glabrous, 1-3 cm. long; peduncles hispidulous, about 8 mm. long; fruits about 0.5 mm. in diameter, dark brown when dry.

TYPE: Parish of Portland, east slope of the John Crow Mountains 1.5-2.5 miles southwest of Ecclesdown, on shaded limestone cliff, elevation 1500-2500 ft., *Proctor 10473*, collected August 11, 1955 (Holotype at the Institute of Jamaica). Additional material: *Proctor 9996* and *Webster & Wilson 5148*, from the same general area.

Named for Mr. C. Bernard Lewis, Director of the Institute of Jamaica and Curator of its Museum.

This species somewhat resembles *P. barbata* of the Jamaican "Cockpit Country" and adjacent areas, but differs in its much slenderer, mostly unbranched, recurved-pendent stems, its obovate-elliptic (instead of roundish-elliptic) leaves of more delicate texture, by its glabrate upper leaf-surfaces, and by its slenderer, shorter spikes and smaller fruits.

P. lewisii also differs from *P. spathophylla* Dahlst. of eastern Cuba (with which it was for a time confused) in its short-recurved (instead of long-creeping) stems which are never stoloniferous, its mostly opposite (instead of alternate) leaves which are glabrate above and never retuse or retuse-cordate, in its hispidulous (instead of glabrous) peduncles, and in having slenderer spikes. The fruits of the two species cannot at present be compared because those of *P. spathophylla* are known only in an immature state.—GEORGE R. PROCTOR, INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA, KINGSTON, W. I.

VIOLA ERIOCARPA VS. V. PENSYLVANICA. — The two common widespread, yellow-flowered, leafy-stemmed violets in eastern North America, *Viola pubescens* and *V. eriocarpa* are readily distinguishable by several morphological characters. Their taxonomy and ecology seem to be adequately understood, but on one point of nomenclature a correction seems to be necessary, as in recent years a few sporadic attempts have been made to substitute for the well-known binomial *Viola eriocarpa* that has stood since 1822, another that has been supposed to antedate it, namely *V. pensylvanica* Michaux (1803).

As already noted, the two species of violets are clearly defined.



Proctor, George R. 1959. "A new Peperomia from Jamaica." *Rhodora* 61, 218–219.

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