

# A New Species, *Habranthus sanavirone* (Amaryllidaceae), from Argentina

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**ABSTRACT.** A new species of *Habranthus* Herbert (Amaryllidaceae) is described and illustrated. *Habranthus sanavirone* Roitman, J. A. Castillo, G. Tourn & Uria is found in sandy soils of central Argentina. The new species resembles *H. robustus* Herbert in size but can be easily distinguished by the absence of bulblets, its glaucous leaves, and its recurved light yellow tepals, with this feature not found in any other species of the genus.

**Key words:** Amaryllidaceae, Argentina, *Habranthus*, IUCN Red List.

*Habranthus* Herbert is an American genus of Amaryllidaceae with ca. 25 to 35 species (Herbert, 1837; Baker, 1888; Sealy, 1937; Arroyo-Leuenberger, 1996) that are primarily from Argentina, Chile, southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay; however, five of these species are from Mexico and one is from the United States (*Habranthus tubispathus* (L'Héritier) Traub, probably introduced from South America). *Habranthus* belongs to the tribe Zephyrantheae (Traub, 1963), but Meerow et al. (1999) classified *Habranthus* in tribe Hippeastreae based on phylogenetic relationships. Additionally, Meerow et al. (2000) presented cladograms that showed *Zephyranthes* Herbert and *Haylockia* Herbert as sister genera to *Habranthus*.

During a trip to the province of Córdoba, Argentina, we found a new species of *Habranthus* that is remarkable by the size, shape, and color of the flowers. Bulbs collected in the field were cultivated in the J. O. Hall Garden facilities (Facultad de Agronomía, Universidad de Buenos Aires). We made observations about the growth and phenology of the new species during a four-year period.

***Habranthus sanavirone*** Roitman, J. A. Castillo, G. Tourn & Uria, sp. nov. TYPE: Argentina. Córdoba: San Marcos Sierra, 27 Nov. 2002, G. Roitman & G. M. Tourn s.n. (holotype, BAA 25415). Figure 1.

Ab *Habranthus robustus* Herbert foliis basalibus glaucis viridibus, ad anthesin praesentibus, 18–22 × 0.8–1.2 cm,

floribus lutescentibus, ad 82 mm, tepaliis ad apicem recurvatis differt.

Plant 25–30 cm; bulb ovoid, 40–45 × 37–45 mm, prolonged into a neck; outer coats dark brown. Leaves present at anthesis, linear, 18–22 × 0.8–1.2 cm, glaucous green. Scape 12–15 cm × 3 mm; spathe with 1 flower, membranous, tubular basally for 30 mm, then bifid apically for 23 mm; peduncle (not branched) to 55–65 mm. Flower light yellow, 82 mm, with darker distal edges and dark red outside basally. Tepals oblanceolate, joined at the base for 5 mm, recurved toward apex, the outer tepals 71 × 15 mm, the inner ones 68 × 11 mm; stamens with filaments fascicled-declined, rather incurved above; upper episepalous filaments 15 mm, lateral episepalous filaments 18 mm, lateral epipetalous filaments 20 mm, and lower epipetalous filaments 23 mm; anthers markedly falcate after the release of pollen, 8 mm; style declined, ca. 35 mm; stigma trifid, its divisions obliquely spreading at first, then recurved, ca. 6 mm; ovary elliptic-oblong, ca. 11 × 5 mm. Fruits and seeds not seen.

*Habranthus sanavirone* is similar in the size of the flowers to *H. robustus* Herbert (to 40–70 mm) but is distinguished by its light yellow flowers with darker bases (vs. pink flowers), its recurved tepals, and the absence of bulblets (vs. presence of bulblets). The distribution of these two species is completely different. *Habranthus robustus* inhabits southeastern Brazil, while *H. sanavirone* is endemic to the hills close to San Marcos in central Argentina. The specific epithet is taken from the indigenous tribe, the Sanavirones, that used to inhabit this area in the province of Córdoba.

**Distribution, habitat, and IUCN Red List category.** *Habranthus sanavirone* is known only from the hills near San Marcos Sierra, province of Córdoba in Argentina. It inhabits sandy soils in open areas close to *Schinopsis marginata* Engler forest. During the past three years, we have observed scattered individuals at altitudes between 700 and 900 m in a very restricted area near the type



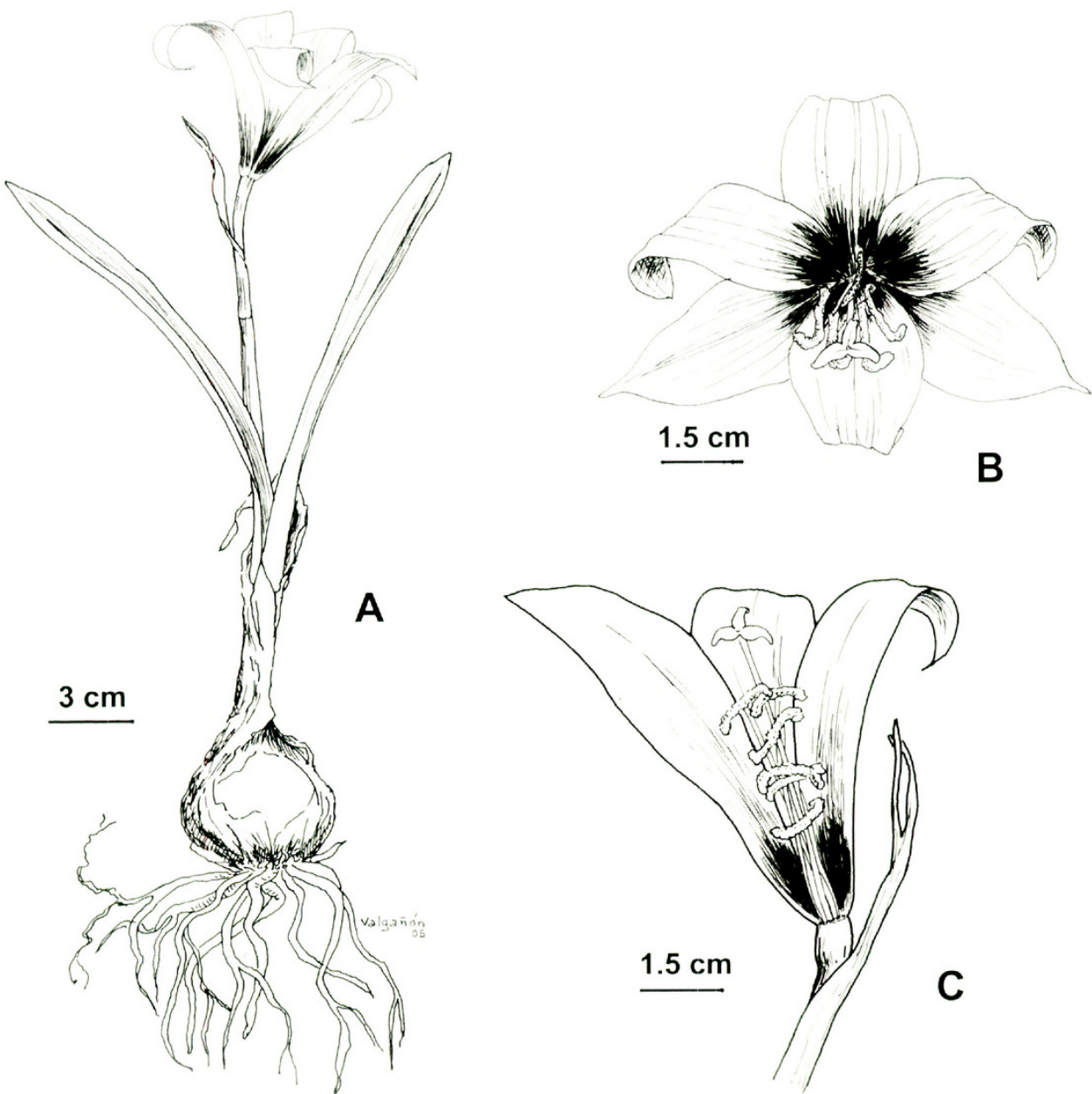


Figure 1. *Habranthus sanavirone* Roitman, J. A. Castillo, G. Tourn & Uria. —A. Plant habit. —B. Flower view from above. —C. Flower in lateral cross section. Drawn from the holotype, *G. Roitman & G. M. Tourn s.n.* (BAA 25415).

locality in San Marcos Sierra. We conclude that the new species can be considered an endangered species (EN B2 a), according to IUCN criteria (IUCN, 2001).

*Phenology.* Flowering during November to January, corresponding to rainfall.

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