New Species of Hawaiian Peperomias

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In 1939, I studied a number of specimens of Peperomia collected in the Hawaiian Islands by Dr. Carl Skottsberg, Miss Lucy M. Cranwell, and Dr. O. H. Seiling. Among them were three which I then considered new to science and to which I gave provisional names. Conditions at the time prevented the preparation of formal descriptions for these new species and because of circumstances caused by the war they were forgotten. In 1944, Skottsberg published part 4 of his "Studies of the Hawaiian vascular plants" which included the genus Peperomia, and the three proposed new species were included in this paper without descriptions. Recently, I have restudied the type specimens in Bernice P. Bishop Museum and now believe that two of the specimens represent new species, descriptions of which are herewith presented. The third, however, is referred to one previously described.

Peperomia waipioana, new species (fig. 1).

Peperomia waipioana Yuncker, in Skottsberg in Meddelanden från Göteborgs Botaniska Trädgård 15: 347, 1944, nomen nudum.

Herba terrestris repens assurgens ramosa; caule glabro; foliis oppositis vel verticillatis, ovato- vel lanceolato-elliptis, utrinque acutis, 5-nervis, supra ad basem dissite pubescentibus, subitus glabratibus; petiolo 3-5 mm. longo; spicis terminalibus vel axillaris; ovario obovoideo, stigmatibus apicatis (?)

A repent-assurgent, terrestrial herb; stem 3-4 mm. thick, ascending to 25 cm., from the decumbent, rooting base, branching toward the top, glabrous, drying slightly glossy, wrinkled, internodes 4-5 cm. long below, shorter upward; leaves opposite or whorled, ovate- or lance-elliptic, 1-1.4 cm. wide × 2.5-3.5 cm. long, apex and base acute, 5-nerved, the outermost pair of lateral nerves slender and indistinct, the innermost pair coalescing with the midrib within the lowermost 2-3 mm., sparsely pilose along the midrib near the base above, glabrous, paler, and yellow glandular-dotted beneath, margin membranous, sparingly ciliate near the apex, drying firm, translucent, pellucid-dotted; petiole 3-5 mm. long on upper
leaves, grooved above; spikes terminal and from the upper axils, 2 mm. thick × 7.8 cm. long, loosely flowered; peduncle 1-1.5 cm. long, glabrous; bracts round-peltate; ovary obovoid, stigma apical (¿).

Figure 1.—Peperomia waipioana, type specimen.
Type locality: Waipio Valley, Kohala Mts., Island of Hawaii.

Distribution: known only from type locality.
This specimen most closely resembles P. Hesperomannii of Kauai but differs because of its smaller, less strongly pinerved leaves with acute rather than cuneate bases, shorter petioles, and mostly longer and stouter spikes. The leaves are also sparingly hairy on the upper surface.

*Peperomia Cranwelliae*, new species (fig. 2).

*Peperomia Cranwelliae* Yuncker, in Skottsberg in Meddelanden från Göteborg’s Botaniska Trädgård 15: 347, 1944, *nomen nudum*.

*Herba parva stolonifero-assurgens; caule supra dissecte villosa; foliis congestis, puerisque 3-verticillatis, ovatis, apice abrupte acutis, basi acutis ad cuneatis, obscurè palmatis 3-5-nervatis, utrinque glabris vel supra basem versus disesse pubescentibus, apicem versus ciliatis, margine revoluto, spicis terminalibus (?); ovario obovato, stigmatibus apicalibus.*

A small, stoloniferous-assurgent herb; stem 3-4 mm. thick, ascending to 10 cm. from the decumbent rooting base, sparsely villous above, the hairs mostly more than 0.5 mm. long, glabrescent downward, internodes 3 cm. long below, much shorter upward; leaves congested, commonly 3 at a node, ovate, 8-12 mm. wide × 12-20 mm. long, apex abruptly acute, base acute to cuneate, obscurely palmately 3-5-nerved, the midrib faintly branched upward, glabrous on both sides or with a few hairs above near base, marginally ciliolate toward apex, drying firm, subopaque, margin narrowly revolute, strongly yellow glandular-dotted on both sides; petioles mostly 3-5 mm. long, glabrous, grooved above; spikes, as represented, terminal (?), 2 mm. thick × 2 cm. long, moderately flowered; peduncle about as long as the petioles, glabrous; bracts round-peltate, glandular-dotted, ovary obovate, stigma terminal; fruit ellipsoidal or obovoid, about 1.2 mm. long, stigma slightly subapical.

Type locality: Kohala Mts., Island of Hawaii.

Distribution: known only from type locality.
This species bears some resemblance to P. eekana of Maui, especially in the shape of the leaves. That species, however, is usually a much larger, hirsute plant with longer internodes and more coriaceous leaves. Only a single young spike without mature fruit is present on the type specimen. The fruits described were found loose and adhering to the leaves. There is some question, therefore, whether they belong to this species.
Peperomia Treleasei Yuncker, B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 112: 46, fig. 11, 1933.


When first studied it was thought that this specimen represented a new species and it was given the provisional herbarium name of P. Sellingii. It is now believed, however, to be the same as P. Treleasei formerly known only from the southeastern part of Molokai, which is separated from western Maui by the relatively narrow Pa'iloa Channel.