



## NOVAE GESNERIACEAE NEOTROPICARUM XIX: A third, new species of the elusive *Anetanthus* found in Guyana

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### Abstract

A new species of *Anetanthus* (Gesneriaceae) is described from Guyana as *A. disjuncta*. A discussion of the known species is provided as well as a key to the known taxa.

**Key Words:** Biodiversity; Classification; Guyana; Taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Anetanthus* Hiern ex Benth (1876: 1025) is rarely found, or more likely, overlooked because of its uncharacteristic small flowers and diminutive habit. The genus is known in Brazil and the Andes of South America from Bolivia to Colombia, and now Guyana. There are fewer than 50 collections of the now three species and one subspecies. The terrestrial, herbaceous habit, and small tubular flowers resemble more *Stemodia* L. (1759: 1091) in the Plantaginaceae than other members of Gesneriaceae. An unusual and distinctive feature of *Anetanthus* is septicidally dehiscing capsules, instead of the more common loculicidal dehiscence. *Anetanthus* is classified in the subtribe Anetanthinae that contains *Anetanthus*, *Tylopsacas* Leeuwenberg (1960: 220), and *Shuaria* D.A. Neill & J.L. Clark (2010: 670) (Weber *et al.* 2013). This tribe is recognized by seed surfaces that are papillate or pustulate due to the bulging cell walls. Molecular sequence data has not yet been published, but *Anetanthus* is weakly supported as the sister taxon to a clade that includes *Tylopsacas* and *Shuaria* (Jason Martin, personal communication, 2015).

### Taxonomy

*Anetanthus disjuncta* L.E. Skog & J.L. Clark, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–2)

Differs from congeners by larger leaves (> 4 cm long) that are elliptic, narrowly ovate, to subfalcate. Capsules oblong to 8 mm long (*vs.* < 8 mm long).

**Type:**—GUYANA. Potaro-Siparuni Region. Mt. Ayanganna, east face, slopes of first of four escarpments, 5°19'58"N, 59°56'4"W, 810 m, 9 June 2001, *H.D. Clarke, R. Williams, C. Perry, E. Tripp & J. Kelly* 8979 (holotype US!; isotypes: BRG!, E!, MO!, NY!).

Terrestrial herbs growing in cracks of sandstone vertical rock faces; stems to 30 cm long, slender, 2–3 mm in diameter at base, green to reddish-brown, appressed tomentose; unbranched or branching only at the base. **Leaves** opposite, subequal to unequal; blades elliptic, narrowly ovate, to subfalcate, 4–11.5 cm long, 1.5–5.2 cm wide, membranous to chartaceous, apex acute to acuminate, base acute to suboblique, margin serrate to serrulate, adaxial surface green, mostly glabrous (sparsely pilose), abaxial surface lighter green to green suffused with red, appressed pilose along the veins and otherwise sparsely pilose; petioles 0.5–2.5 cm long, appressed pilose. Inflorescences erect, in upper axils, usually forked, 2 flowers at base of fork, each branch with 10+ flowers, peduncles slender 2–5.5 cm long, tomentose, pedicels short, 2–3 mm long. **Flowers** fragrant with odor of wintergreen, calyx lobes nearly separate at base when mature, and appressed to corolla when young, narrowly lanceolate, to 2 mm long, ca. 0.5 mm wide, green to red to green suffused with red, glandular-pilose outside, apex narrowly acuminate; corolla tubular, 6–8 mm long, gibbous on upper side near base and narrowing towards throat, uniformly white, outer surface sparsely pilose, inside of throat