Specimens examined (since Luteyn, 1976). PANAMA. Chiriquí: Region of Bajo Chorro, 21 Mar 1977 (fl), D’Arcy 10924 (MO), 7 May 1978 (fl), Hammel 2948 (MO); Cerro Horqueta, 40 km NW of Gualaca, 27 Jul 1975 (fl), Mori & Bolten 7497 (MO); Cerro Horqueta, Cochrane et al. 6238 (WIS).

96b. Cavendishia megabracteata Luteyn var. attenuata Luteyn, var. nov. Type. Panama. Coclé: 8 km above El Copé nr. continental divide, 600 m, 10 Jan 1978 (fl), Hammel 823 (holotype, MO, photo NY neg. 10870; isotype, DUKE).

A var. megabracteata foliis basi cuneato-attenuatis (non obtusis, rotundatis vel truncatis), floribus magis numerosis, rhachidibus 3.5–6 (non 0.6–3.5) cm longis, bracteis floralibus 30–35 (non 20–70) mm longis, calycis 4–5.5 (non 7–13) mm longis, corollis 17–20 (non 31–43) mm longis, et distributione et elevatione differt.

Leaves lance-elliptic to broadly elliptic, 6.5–10.5 cm long, basally cuneate-attenuate. Inflorescence 10–14-flowered; rachis 3.5–6 cm long and 1.5–1.7 mm diam.; floral bracts 30–35 × 15–26 mm, purple, pink to lavender-pink when fresh. Calyx 4–5.5 mm long; hypanthium 1.5–2.5 mm long, the apophysate base straight, extending to articulation; limb campanulate, ribbed, 2.5–3 mm long; corolla 17–20 mm long; stamens 16 mm long; filaments alternately 3 mm and 6 mm long; anthers alternately 15 mm and 12 mm long; thecae 4.5–5 mm long; style ca. 18–20 mm long.

Distribution. (Fig. 71C). Known only from the type locality in Coclé Prov., Panama where it is an epiphytic shrub in moist to very wet and windy cloud forest at elevations of 600–900 m. It has been collected in flower in January.

Specimens examined. PANAMA. Coclé: Vic. of Rivera sawmill at Alto de Calvario, 7–8 km N of El Copé, 900 m, 11 Jan 1977 (fl), Folsom 1211 (MO), 600–750 m, 9 Jan 1977 (fl), Maas et al. 2762 (NY).

Cavendishia megabracteata is characterized by its large, apically emarginate, reddish floral bracts; obconic or spherical inflorescences (when in bud); basically whitish flowers; and glandular-callose calyx lobes. Both the floral bracts and corollas are extremely thin in texture and translucent when dry. The size, shape, and texture of its floral bracts alone serve to distinguish this species from most other Mexican–Central American cavendishias.

The two varieties of C. megabracteata are easily distinguished by the characters given in the key. Additional collections of var. attenuata are sorely needed, however, to determine the extent of its variability and geographical and elevational range.

Within sect. Callista, Cavendishia megabracteata, C. wercklei, C. callista, C. atroviolacea, and C. melastomoides are members of a closely knit group of Costa Rican–Panamanian cavendishias characterized, in general, by pinnerved leaves, large floral bracts and corollas, and strongly apophysate calyces which are usually conspicuously lobed or ribbed. It is difficult to say which species are more closely related because each has its own derived features. Cavendishia megabracteata is distinguished from the rest by its emarginate floral bracts; the other species are characterized by features given in the key.


Socratesia melastomoides Klotzsch, Linnaea 24: 23. 1851. Type. Costa Rica. Heredia: 3 km beyond Cerro Redondo (La Cruz), E slopes Volcán Barba, 1890–2020 m, 22 May 1972 (fl), Luteyn 2980 (neotype, NY; isoneotypes, CAS, DUKE, E, F, GH, LL, MIC, MO, MSU, US, WIS). The lectotype cited by Smith (1932) and Luteyn (1976), Warsawicz s.n. from