

This revision treats a complex of five species of compact Andean cushion plants, including *Paepalanthus pilosus* and relatives (Eriocaulaceae), characteristic of wet sites in páramo and sub-páramo from Bolivia to Costa Rica. The species are placed in *P.* subsect. *Cryptanthella*, here emended with a revised description. Based on detailed study of vegetative and floral morphology of over 200 herbarium specimens, this revision clarifies species boundaries and identifies new taxonomically relevant characters. Five taxa are newly placed in synonymy, and two species and one variety are newly described.

The three widespread species *P. pilosus*, *P. caryonauta*, and *P. dendroides*, formerly collapsed into one or two vaguely delimited taxa under various names, are here shown to be distinguished by leaf, floral and fruit characters relevant to habitat and reproductive biology. Unusual variability and possible hybridization is noted at some sites, suggesting avenues for further study. Keys, descriptions, photos and maps are provided for all taxa. Associated online resources include an exsiccatae list and spreadsheet of complete specimen label data and estimated geographic coordinates.



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THE ANDEAN *PAEPALANTHUS PILOSUS* COMPLEX (ERIOCAULACEAE): A REVISION WITH THREE NEW TAXA

BY NANCY HENSOLD



Paepalanthus caryonauta Hensold, sp. nov.

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