

*Tillaea venezuelensis* Steyermark, sp. nov.

Herba perennis aquatica vel terrestris 9-11 cm. alta; caulis confertis erectis vel adscendentibus tenuibus 0.8-0.9 mm. diam.; internodiis elongatis, inferioribus 8-13 mm. longis, superioribus 2.5-4 mm. longis; foliis basi connatis plerumque adscendentibus linear-lanceolatis acutis 3-6 mm. longis 0.5-0.6 mm. latis; vaginis obscure brunneis 1 mm. altis; floribus solitariis paucis terminalibus vel in axillis superioribus fere sessilibus, pedicellis ad 0.7 mm. longis; sepalis 4, basi connatis, late triangularibus vel oblongo-ovatis apice rotundatis, lobis 0.5 mm. longis basi 0.7 mm. latis, tubo 0.5 mm. longo; petalis 4 oblongo-ovatis apice rotundatis 1.2-1.3 mm. longis 0.8 mm. latis; staminibus 4, filamentis 0.8-0.9 mm. longis; antheris suborbicularibus 0.2 mm. longis; squamellis 4 linearibus vel linear-spatulatis apice rotundatis 0.7 mm. longis 0.2 mm. latis carpello brevioribus; carpellis 4 ovoideis 1 mm. longis in stigmate breve orbiculare abrupte terminantibus; ovulis in quoque carpello 4-7; seminibus immaturis paullo reticulatis in quoque carpello 4-7.

Type in herb. Chi. Nat. Hist. Mus., collected on bottom of and along shore of small lake near upper limit of páramo, between Chachopo and Los Apartaderos, near El Aguila, state of Mérida, alt. 3930 m., April 15, 1944, Julian A. Steyermark 55906, "submerged."

The genus *Tillaea* has not been recorded previously from Venezuela. The present species is related to *T. aquatica* L. of North America, Europe, and Africa, and to *T. viridis* of Mexico. From both of them it may be distinguished by the fewer number of ovules and seeds in each carpel. Furthermore, from *T. viride* it differs in the shorter leaves, more elongated stems and internodes, and non-papillate seeds, while from *T. aquatica* it differs in the distinctly rounded apices of calyx lobes and petals, more elongated stems and internodes, fewer and more remote flowers, and somewhat reticulate instead of longitudinally wrinkled seeds.