



## *Nepenthes alzapan* (Nepenthaceae), a new species from Luzon, Philippines

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This paper forms a part of the studies towards a World Monograph of *Nepenthes* Linnaeus (1753: 955) building on a Skeletal Revision of *Nepenthes* (Jebb & Cheek 1997) and the Flora Malesiana account (Cheek & Jebb 2001). In the course of studying previously unseen specimens from the Philippines, four sheets (*Ramos & Edanō* 45690, K, NY, UC, US), of a species previously unknown came to light from Mt Alzapan. The oblong, glabrous, ligulate, sessile leaf-blades with 5–7 pairs of nearly evenly spaced longitudinal nerves placed the species unambiguously in the *Insignes* group of Danser (1928) which is restricted to the Philippines apart from one species, *N. insignis* Danser (1928: 314), in New Guinea and, more ambiguously, *N. northiana* Hooker, J.D. (1881: 717) in Borneo (Cheek & Jebb 2001).

The *Insignes* group are also characterised by more or less broadly cylindrical upper pitchers with a length: breadth ratio of 3 or 4:1 (constricted at the waist in *N. ventricosa* Blanco (1837: 807) which bear a broad peristome, semi-circular in section, the inner edge of which is prominently toothed, the outer attenuating in thickness until it is membranous. The lower surface of the pitcher lid lacks an appendage. The nectar glands are usually transversely elliptic, non-perithecoidal and are absent from the midline, being restricted to two incurved lateral bands.

In the key to Philippine species of *Nepenthes*, Cheek & Jebb (2001) the species described below as *N. alzapan*, keys out as the small-pitched *N. bellii* K.Kondo (1969: 653) of Mindanao. The two taxa appear similar in terms of overall dimensions of the pitchers. However, the upper pitchers of *N. bellii*, while broadly similar to those of *N. alzapan*, differ significantly in their finer peristome, and sparse lid glands (Table 1). In practice *N. alzapan* being restricted to Luzon, is unlikely to be confused with *N. bellii*, which is restricted to Mindanao. It is more likely that its leaves, stems and inflorescences might be identified as *N. ventricosa*, the only other species of this group in Luzon. However the upper pitchers of *N. ventricosa* are much larger and longer than in *N. alzapan*, 9–16 × 3–8 cm and hour-glass shaped, lacking fringed wings, and the lid is narrowly elliptic 4–6 × 1.8–2.25 cm.

**TABLE 1.** The major characters separating *N. alzapan* and *N. bellii*

	<i>N. bellii</i>	<i>N. alzapan</i>
<b>Stems</b>	Terete, or slightly angular, 3–5 mm diam. Not winged	Sharply triangular, 5–7 mm diam. Winged
<b>Leaf width</b>	1–1.8 cm	1.5–2.5(–3.4) cm
<b>Upper pitchers</b>	Infundibuliform 7.3–7.5 × 2–2.5 cm	Subglobose to globose–infundibuliform, 6.5–6.8 × 4.2–5 cm
<b>Peristome ribs</b>	0.7 mm apart	1.5 mm apart
<b>Pitcher lid nectar glands</b>	<10	70–200+
<b>Male inflorescence size</b>	10–15 × 1 cm	31.5–42 × 1.5–2 cm
<b>Flowers per inflorescence</b>	ca. 40	80–110
<b>Pedicel length</b>	3–4 mm	7–8(–10) mm
<b>Staminal column</b>	ca. 1.5 mm long, glabrous	2–2.5 mm long, hairy