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We define rank varieties for modules of the first class of noncocommutative Hopf algebras, namely the Borel parts of small quantum groups of type  $A_1$ . These may be considered quantum analogs of an elementary abelian  $p$ -group  $E$ : Their structure and cohomology are similar to that of  $E$ . We prove that the rank varieties are homeomorphic to the support varieties. We use this to prove that the variety of a tensor product is the intersection of the varieties. (Received September 25, 2006)