NEW ORCHID SPECIES FROM COLOMBIA

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Abstract: Two new orchid species from Colombia are here presented (Telipogon esperanzae and Trichoceros cristinae) and three species which are new to Colombia are reported (Cyrtochilum pastasae, Oreophilus geminipetalus and Pterichis silvestris).

Key words: Orchidaceae, Cyrtochilum, Oreophilus, Pterichis, Telipogon, Trichoceros, Colombia, plant taxonomy.

Two new orchid species from Colombia recently discovered are here presented and three interesting species that are new to Colombia are reported, all of horticultural value.

TELIPOGON ESPERANZAE P. Ortiz

Similis Telipogonis hausmanniani Rchb. f., a quo differt floribus minoribus, petalis 13-nervatis, labello 21-nervato, omnibus nervis in tertia parte basali pallidis, in tertia parte media rubris, in tertia parte apicali viridibus.

Type: COLOMBIA: Quindío, Salento, alt. 3000 m, epiphytic, coll. Esperanza Mejía de Moreno, July 2008, sub P. Ortiz 1313 (Holotype: Herbarium of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá [HPUJ]).

Description: Plant small, roots thick at the base of the stem. Stem abbreviated, with a short rhizome, pseudobulbless, ca. 1 cm long. Leaves basal, the upper ones progressively longer, up to 8 cm long x 1.5 cm broad, oblong-elliptic, apically enlarged, acuminate at the apex. Inflorescence axillary, section triangular, longer than the leaves, the basal sheath narrow and acute, 4 cm long, a few-

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flowered raceme, floral bracts large, triangular, acute, 1.5 cm long, the pedicel 2 cm long. Flowers medium sized, greenish yellow, the veins of the petals and of the lip in their basal third pale, in the middle third red-brown, in the apical third greenish, the petals almost devoid of transversal veins, the lip with incomplete transversal veins. Sepals oblong-elliptic acuminate, on the backside centrally keeled, 15 mm long x 5 mm broad, 5-nerved. Petals obovate, the base narrow, gradually enlarged, with a small, obtuse apex, 15 mm long x 12 mm of maximum breadth, with 13 longitudinal veins and few transversal veins; lip transversally elliptic, at the base slightly enlarged, with a small terminal apiculum, with 21 longitudinal nerves and several transversal, oblique, incomplete veins. The base with an elliptic, reddish, single (not double), a little raised, pubescent, spot. Column short, terete, 3 mm long x 1.5 mm in diameter, glabrous, rostellum acute, pollinia with a long stipe, viscidium hook-shaped, stigma ventral, prominent. See drawing 1.

Etymology: Named after Esperanza Mejía de Moreno, an enthusiastic grower and expert in the orchids of Quindío, who discovered the plant.

Distribution: Colombia, Quindío, Central Cordillera, at 3000 m of altitude.

Commentary: This is a fine specimen of the species of Telipogon of high altitude, belonging to the small group of species that contradict the generic name, since its column lacks the characteristic bristles and hairs, although some pubescence, not very prominent, is seen at the base of the lip (see photo 1). It has an undeniable affinity with Telipogon haussmannianus, a species that was originally found, according to Reichenbach f. (1861), in “The forests of Quindiu, Province of Cauca, 9840' [= 2952 m], los Volcanitos, February 1843, Linden 1285!”. At that time, this zone was considered a part of the Province of Cauca. This new species is characterized by the number and color of the veins in the petals and the lip, as explained, and can be seen in the phototraph 2.

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TRICHOLOCEROS CRISTINAEE P. Ortiz & C. Uribe

Similis T. dombeyi, a quo differt lobis lateralibus labelli longioribus, falcatis, labelli lamina obovata, callo in basi protuberantia globosa ornato, columna lateralter expansa iuxta stigma.

Description: Plants small, epiphytic, with ascending rhizome, separated ca. 3-4 cm, roots fleshy, 2.5 mm thick, 4 basal leaf-like sheaths, the lower ones small, the upper ones much larger, thick, fleshy, up to 4-5 cm long x 1.8-1.9 cm broad, angurally concave, apiculate, pseudobulb ovate, 1.2 cm long x 0.8 cm in diameter, terminating in a small, variably long leaf. Inflorescence from the base of the pseudobulb, erect, slightly arcuate, 5 cm long, 1 mm in diameter, with a bract in the middle, 3-flowered raceme. Flowers medium sized, opening successively. Sepals and petals green-yellowish with small reddish spots, suggesting veins or nerves, 3 in the sepals, 5 in the petals, less marked in the lip. Lateral lobes and callus dark red-purple. Sepals elliptic, the apex acute, 9 mm long x 6 mm broad. Petals obovate, with an acute apex, 9 mm long x 6 mm broad; lip 3-lobed, the midlobe obovate, 9 mm long x 10 mm broad, lateral lobes fleshy, 5 mm long, slightly falcate, with obtuse, hairy apices, the callus united to the base of the lateral lobes, pentagonal, with obtuse apices, with a hairy, globose protuberance at the base, specially the margins hirsute, 6 mm long x 6 mm broad. Column short, specially the sides, hirsute, enlarged at the sides of the stigma, stigma excavated. See drawing 2.

Etymology: Named after María Cristina Samper de Uribe, wife of the grower of the plant, Dr. Carlos Uribe V.

Distribution: COLOMBIA: Santander, cold climate. Most species of Trichoceros grow in Peru, Ecuador and southern Colombia. This is the first species to be found so far north in Colombia.

Commentary: As just stated, the geographical range of this plant is remarkable, in comparison with most species of the genus. This is the first species of Trichoceros to be found outside of the southern area of Colombia, although also in a cold climate. It is similar to the Peruvian species Trichoceros dombeyi D.E. Benn & Christenson, from central and northern Perú, but differs from it by having a globose protuberance at the center of the callus and by its more pronounced pentagonal shape. The column has at the sides of the stigma an obtuse prolongation, lacking in the Peruvian species. See photograph 3.

The genus Trichoceros has an undeniable affinity with Telipogon. However, the vegetative organs distinguish them sufficiently, warrant the acceptance of it as a distinct genus (N.H.Williams et al., 2005: 168).
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**Bas:** Oncidium pastasae Rchb. f., Linnaea 41: 21. 1877.

**Type:** COLOMBIA: Putumayo, San Francisco, Vereda La Esperanza, between Minchoy and Mocoa, alt. ca. 1700 m., Febr. 4, 2005 (fl. San Francisco) R. Medina 140 (flower in liquid at HPUJ).

This species, one of the most attractive of the genus, was known since 1877 from Ecuador (type) and Perú (Zelenko & Bermúdez 2009:101). The fact that it has been found now also in southern Colombia (Putumayo), thanks to the interest of Sr. Ramiro Medina, of San Francisco (Put.), constitutes a welcome addition to the orchid flora of Colombia. See photograph 4.

Literature


Type: COLOMBIA: Cauca, El Tambo, vereda El Tambito, 1750 m., in rain forest. Col. Roberto de Angulo, fl. Febr. 2009, sub P. Ortiz 1311 (Herbarium of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá [HPUJ]).

Distribution: ECUADOR; COLOMBIA: Cauca, vicinity of Popayán.

Commentary: This species of Oreophilus is reported for the first time for Colombia. I accept the separation of Oreophilus (the correct name for what was called originally Lepanthes subg. Brachycladium Luer) from Lepanthes. When this group of orchids was promoted to the genus level (Luer 2005) the fact that a genus of fungi with that name already existed was overlooked, making this name, if applied to this group of orchids, illegitimate. W.E.Higgins & F. Archila published in 2008 the new name. Everybody can distinguish those two genera and it will eventually prove that they are genetically separable. The species Oreophilus geminipetalus can be easily recognized. Although Higgins and Archila mention as a distinctive character of Oreophilus having entire petals, that is not the case in this species; the petals are definitely bilobed, as its specific epithet implies. Although vegetatively it looks like so many other species of the genus, the orange-colored flowers are notorious above all by its erect, bilobed, petals, with minutely ciliolate margins and the dark purple, fleshy lip, with erect lateral lobes at the sides of the column. It has not been possible to determine the pollinator of these orchids or the contrivance used. No fruit pods have been observed. See photograph 5.

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**Type:** COLOMBIA: Cundinamarca, Páramo de Guasca, eastern slope, col. L. E. Álvarez, ca. 3000 m., Febr. 2007, P. Ortiz 1271 (HPUJ).

This species was originally described from Bolivia (3200 m) and has been reported also from Peru (3200-3600 m.) (Schweinfurth 1958: 107). This is the first report for Colombia, at a similar altitude, which extends considerably its geographical range. See photograph 6.

**Literature**
