

Teuscheria cornucopiae, T. horichiana,

Henry Teuscher and Clarence Horich

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The history of the genus *Teuscheria* and two of its species is given, together with biographical data of Henry Teuscher and Clarence Horich.

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***Teuscheria cornucopiae* Garay, American Orchid Society Bulletin 27(12):820.1958**

Teuscheria belong to those orchid-genera which unifies several attributes like: difficult to find and to obtain, difficult to grow and to flower and difficult to name. Logically, established *Teuscheria*-plants are very seldom seen in cultivation and are real treasures. The genus *Teuscheria*, named after Henry Teuscher, was created by Leslie A. Garay in 1958 in "American Orchid Society Bulletin". Garay described and illustrated *Teuscheria cornucopiae* as type species of the new genus. Several small plants of the species were collected by Henry Teuscher in

1956 during an expedition in Ecuador on the western slopes of the Andes, 100 km from Guayaquil in about 1000 m altitude, and have been cultivated in the Botanical Garden in Montreal. Garay published a first photograph of one of the plants in flower and a drawing of plant, flower and flower parts by E.W. Smith. The type of *Teuscheria cornucopiae* is at the AMES herbarium. In 1959 Garay described another species, *Teuscheria venezuelana* in the journal "Rhodora", in the same article he recombined the old *Bifrenaria pickiana* Schlechter (1912) to *Teuscheria pickiana*.

In 1967 he added in "Botanical Museum Leaflets Harvard University" *Teuscheria wagneri*, based on *Bifrenaria wagneri* Rchb.f. (1854). The Colombian species *Teuscheria elegans* Garay followed in 1970 in "Orquideologia", *Teuscheria dodsonii* Dressler from southern Ecuador was added to the genus by Dressler in 1972 in "Orquideologia" and *Teuscheria integrilabia* Dodson – also from Ecuador – followed in 1980 in "Selbyana". *Teuscheria venezuelana* Garay is most probably a

synonym of *Teuscheria wagneri* (Rchb.f.) Garay, that would leave – together with *Teuscheria horichiana* – 7 species in the genus. In 2013 Fredy L. Archila, Guy R. Chiron and Dariusz L. Szlachetko described in the French journal "Richardiana" 3 new species from Guatemala, *Teuscheria archilae*, *Teuscheria desireei* and *Teuscheria guatemalensis*. How far those binomials represent "good" species is not yet clear.

***Teuscheria horichiana* R.Jenny & G.J.Braem, Orchid Digest 51(4):187.1987**

Back in 1980 my friend Clarence Horich wrote me that he had collected a new *Teuscheria* in Costa Rica; upon request he sent a few bulbs to Switzerland which he had found in the rainforest along the Rio Sarapiquí. I kept this plant duly attached to a piece of *Dicksonia* in my greenhouse in Berne, but unfortunately the plant refused to flower for 3 years. A few years later, the specimen was in flower and was "rediscovered" in my collection by Bob Dressler upon a visit to Switzerland. After comparison of the flowers with published drawings in literature Bob agreed with it being most probably a species hitherto undescribed. In 1986, during another visit to Costa Rica, I was able to recollect the species during a field trip with Horich in the same area along the Rio Sarapiquí in about 800 m altitude, together with a very large clump of *Teuscheria pickiana* in flower. A third and larger plant was purchased from a local collector during the same field trip. About a week later I had the chance to visit Rafael Lucas Rodrigues in San Jose and he showed me a whole series of his beautiful drawings of Costa Rican orchids. One of them showed the mysterious *Teuscheria* I had collected some days before. Back in Switzerland one of the plants died very fast but the other one started to flower. Colour slides and flowers were sent to Bob Dressler for verification and again, it turned up to be this particular new species. Rodrigues' drawing of this *Teuscheria* was published without a species name in 1987 in the book "Generos de Orquideas de Costa Rica". The formal first description

of *Teuscheria horichiana* was published in 1987 in "Orchid Digest", the type is in the Conservatoire Jardin Botanique Chambesey (G), Geneve, Switzerland. Horich was happy to find another orchid species named after him and asked me for an enlarged photograph he could pin on the wall in his living room in his small house in the Barrio Cuba in San Jose. When the material in the herbarium of Reichenbach in Vienna, collected in Costa Rica by Augustus R. Endres, was sorted for the publication of the book about this collector, a drawing of *Teuscheria horichiana* by Endres showed up, labelled as *Bifrenaria* and collected around San Ramon in Costa Rica. *Teuscheria horichiana* is – like all other species of the genus – very seldom seen in cultivation, it seems to be endemic to the Sarapiquí-area in Costa Rica and was collected only a few times.

Heinrich (Henry) Teuscher was born on 29th May 1891 in Berlin. He visited the humanistic gymnasium in Berlin and learned gardener, after his 3 year apprenticeship he entered the Horticultural College (Gärtnerlehranstalt) in Berlin-Dahlem and graduated in 1914. Emerging the war as Lieutenant of the air-force, he worked for a short time for the "Gartenamt" in Hamburg and moved 1919 as assistant of Professor Karl Otto Graebner for 2 years back to the Horticultural College in Berlin-Dahlem. He left the college in 1921 with a Master's degree in horticulture and landscape architecture. Until 1922 Henry acted as editor of the journal "Der praktische Gärtner" in Frankfurt a.O., in

1922 he left Germany for the United States where he was naturalized as U.S. citizen in 1932. From 1922 to 1923 Henry worked at the Arnold Arboretum ("to get accustomed to the American ways") under its director Charles Sprague Sargent. Based on Sprague's recommendation, he was employed in 1923 as botanist by the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. In 1926 he changed as director to the newly founded Boyce-Thomson Arboretum in Yonkers, New York and in 1932 he was employed as Dendrologist at the Botanical Garden New York.

Conrad Kirouack (1885 – 1944), known as Brother Marie-Victorin, was the founder of the Botanical Institute of the University of Montreal in 1920, he had the vision of a botanical garden belonging to the institute. After the publication of his plans, it took him 6 years to convince scientists and politicians and finally in 1931 the garden was founded. Henry Teuscher was employed in May 1936 as superintendent and chief horticulturist of the garden and was promoted as curator in 1942. He stayed in "his" garden until his retirement on 1st May 1962. When he left the garden he had amassed a collection of more than 22,000 plants, including about 2,200 orchids. In 1951 and 1956 he travelled to Ecuador and in 1964 to Panama, collecting plants, mainly orchids. During the second trip in Ecuador he met Clarence Horich and this contact remained active for many years. Trips to Venezuela, Trinidad, Tobago, Jamaica and Hawaii followed.

Henry Teuscher was a prolific writer, until July 1971 he published about 500 articles in many different journals. For the "American Orchid Society Bulletin" he wrote between 1953 and 1978 about 230 parts of the famous "Collector's item", in those articles he presented seldom seen and cultivated orchids from the collection of the Botanical Garden Montreal, most of them from Central- and South America. Beside the genus *Teuscheria* Garay some other species are dedicated to Henry Teuscher, *Rodriguezia teuscheri* Garay (1958), *Epidendrum teuscherianum* A.D.Hawkes

(1956) and *Telipogon teuscheri* Garay (1958). He published 2 books, "Window-boxgardening" in 1956 and "The soil and its fertility" in 1960.

After his retirement he acted as consultant for the Botanical Garden at Birmingham, Alabama, and the Foster Botanical Garden in Honolulu. Heinrich (Henry) Teuscher died in Toronto, Canada, on 9th August 1984.

Clarence (Klaus) Horich was born in 1930 in Lüdenscheid, Germany. After an education as gardener he left Germany in 1951 and went to Canada. He there found employment with a large orchid nursery, in 1953 he started a collection trip to Central and South America to collect Orchids for different nurseries. In this time he travelled 11 months for Sander in England. Beside a few vacation trips he never came back to Europe or to Canada, in 1957 he settled in San Jose, Costa Rica and started his own business as independent plant collector. During one of his visits in Germany he spent a day in the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt and he always enjoyed the photo of him taken by Emil Lückel in front of the skeleton of a *Triceratops*, his comment was: "another fossil like myself", To see Clarence in a tie was an event by itself.

He was not only interested in orchids, he collected very successful also ferns, cacti, aroids and many other plants. Many of the European collections of those plants in botanical gardens have been put together in large parts by Clarence Horich. He was one of the last real orchid hunters in the true sense of the word and quite a few orchid species like *Mormodes horichii*, *Mesospinidium horichii*, *Telipogon horichianus*, *Maxillaria horichii* and the genus *Horichia* are named after him. Also 2 Cacti, *Disocactus horichii* Kimnach (1979) and *Nopaxochia horichii* Kimnach (1984) are dedicated to Clarence. Of all plants carrying his name he had a large photograph in his living room and he always proudly presented "his" plants to visitors.

Parallel to his travels he started to write

about the plants, their habitat and especially about his adventures during collecting trips, he published between 1953 and 1994 more than 230 articles about orchids and in spite of the fact that the reader had always to divide carefully between facts and adventurous fiction, those articles belonged to the best descriptions of localities and habitats of orchids we have from Central America. It was always a real adventure to travel and collect with him, he was one of the best plant experts in Costa Rica and a day with him in the forest was something like a crash-course in botany and ecology. His private plant collection in the backyard of his small house in the Barrio Cuba in San Jose was far better than most of the collections of Costa Rican plants in botanical gardens elsewhere. He had an extremely good eye especially for small plants and he had a nose where and how to find new things. Because he had to finance his living with the plants, all plants he sold during his live have been declared at least as "rare" or better as "extremely rare". He always used to send plants away extremely carefully packed and labelled, the species name and the remarks „rare" or „extremely rare" on the label were always followed by the exact locality and altitude, often even with remarks about other species growing at the same place. The collection of all those labels, carefully written with his old typing-machine

with a bit "disorganised" characters is still a source of detailed information about habit and origin of many seldom seen orchid-species from Costa Rica. Over many years he used always exactly the same kind of cardboard boxes to send plants away, I never found out from where he had them.

Clarence was for a long time the only one who knew where to find *Paphinia subclausa* in Costa Rica, clever as he was he did not empty the locality, but he took away every year one or two plants and sold them extremely expensive. He rediscovered *Trevoria zahlbruckneriana* in Costa Rica, a species lost for a long time, living in a very specific habitat and extremely difficult to keep alive in cultivation. *Houlletia lansbergii* (today treated as synonym of *Houlletia tigrina*) was another "lost" species he rediscovered. Clarence owned a "finca" in the Atlantic lowlands of Costa Rica, as he often said "crowded with snakes and alligators", and he had a special relationship with snakes. Once he explained "the next snake biting me will die, I have been bitten so often that I must be poisoned myself". After more than 40 years travelling in Central America Clarence Horich died after a stroke in 1994. ■



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