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A NEW AND EXTRAORDINARY CYRTOCHILUM (ORCHIDACEAE: ONCIDIINAE) FROM COLOMBIA

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ABSTRACT. A new species of Cyrtochilum from Antioquia, Colombia, is described and illustrated, and compared with the similar Ecuadorian C. cryptocopis and C. trifurcatum, but differs in having a different ventral structure and much narrower wings of the column, and also by the much broader frontlobe of the lip.

KEY WORDS: Cyrtochilum, Colombia, Oncidiinae, new species, taxonomy

Despite two centuries of intense hunting for orchids in the Colombian wilderness, as well as extensive deforestation and urbanization, new and extraordinary species are found rather frequently. New and attractive species of Phragmipedium Rolfe have recently been described, and large numbers of showy pleurothallids in genera such as Dracula Luer, and Masdevallia Ruiz & Pav., as well as a plethora of other types of orchids never seem to stop appearing in the botanical literature. This paper describes a new Cyrtochilum Kunth, from the western cordillera where it was initially discovered by one of the authors (GG) as his attention was caught by the dancing brown and yellow flowers on the long pendant inflorescence while walking through the national preserve.

Cyrtochilum betancurii G.Giraldo & Dalström sp. nov.

TYPE: Colombia, Antioquia, Mun. Urrao. Parque Nacional Natural las Orquídeas, in cloud forest at 1600-1800 m elevation. February 2, 2011. J. Betancur 14882 (holotype, COL). Fig. 1—3.

DIAGNOSIS: Cyrtochilum betancurii is most similar to the Ecuadorian C. cryptocopis (Rchb.f.) Kraenzl. (Fig. 4), and C. trifurcatum (Lindl.) Kraenzl. (Fig. 5), but has a different ventral structure and much narrower wings of the column, and also by the much broader frontlobe of the lip.
lobes, and a ca. 4 mm broad isthmus below the widely spreading and broadly dolabiform, obtuse to acute, emarginate, revolute frontlobe, 1.8 × 1.8 cm; callus complex and fleshy, emerging near the base of the lateral lobes and extending for ca. 5 mm, consisting of an erect, table-like, tricarinate structure with several lateral, spreading denticles, with additional series of spreading tubercles or denticles on each side, and an apical, central, longitudinal and triangular keel, with spreading, dorsally flattened, fleshy, lateral keels; column purplish brown, stout, erect in a ca. 90° angle from the base of the lip then slightly curved towards the lip near the apex, with a complex, protruding, terete, trilobate concavity on the ventral side below the stigma, and with a pair of clavate to obliquely and narrowly deltoid, or bilobed, spreading blackish purple
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**Distribution**: Colombia, Antioquia, Mun. Urrao. Parque Nacional Natural las Orquídeas on the western cordillera.

**Eponymy**: Named in honor of Julio Betancur, leader of the expedition to Parque Nacional Las Orquídeas, and a renowned Colombian botanist with great experience and passion for tropical plants that has positively influenced a new generation of Colombian botanists.

*Cyrtochilum betancurii* is only known from the type collection in the cloud forests of the western cordillera in Colombia. Because of its restricted location the authors recommend its protection until
Figure 5. Cyrtochilum trifurcatum. A. Column and lip lateral view. B. Column lateral view. C. Column ventral view. D. Anther cap and pollinarium. E. Lip, spread. F. Flower dissected. Drawn from Dodson 14034 (SEL) by Stig Dalström.
more information about the species distribution can be gathered.

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