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A NEW *CYRTOCHILUM* (ORCHIDACEAE: ONCIDIINAE) FROM SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA IN COLOMBIA

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Cyrtochilum* from the isolated region of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia is described and illustrated, and compared with similar species. It is distinguished from other *Cyrtochilum* species by the violet color of the sepals and petals, in combination with the pandurate lip lamina with a large and protruding nose-like central callus keel.

KEY WORDS: *Cyrtochilum*, Orchidaceae, Oncidiinae, new species, Colombia, Santa Marta, Sierra Nevada, taxonomy

During a past visit to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (MSBG) in Sarasota, Florida, Mariano Ospina brought a large number of dried orchid specimens for identification purposes, mainly from the National Herbarium of Colombia (COL) in Bogotá. The herbarium batch consisted of species that today are placed in many different genera, including *Cyrtochilum* Kunth, *Erycina* Lindl., *Heteranthocidium* Szlach., Mytnik & Romowicz, *Oncidium* Sw., *Otoglossum* (Schltr.) Garay & Dunst., and *Trichocentrum* Poepp. & Endl. (the names of the genera vary depending on which taxonomist is consulted). During this project, which was a collaboration between Ospina and MSBG, I had the opportunity to analyze the material and encountered a *Cyrtochilum* species that was unknown to me. A drawing was made at the time of this unusual looking and most certainly quite attractive species. Eventually it became clear that it represented an undescribed species, which is described herein.

***Cyrtochilum violaceum* Dalström, sp. nov.**

TYPE: Colombia, Magdalena, Sierra Nevada de Sta. Marta, Transecto del Alto Rio Buritaca, Cuchilla at 2900 m, Lev. 29. Proyecto Desarrollo, 5 August 1977; R. Jaramillo M. et al. 5366 (holotype, COL). FIG. 1.

DIAGNOSIS: *Cyrtochilum violaceum* is distinguished from other *Cyrtochilum* species by the violet color of the sepals and petals, in combination with a pandurate

lip lamina with a large and protruding nose-like central callus keel, which is similar to the not closely related *Oncidium mantense* Dodson & R.Estrada. *Cyrtochilum violaceum* differs from the similarly colored and closely related *Cyrtochilum undulatum* Kunth [syn: *C. orgyale* (Rchb.f. & Warsc.) Kraenzl.] by the pandurate lip lamina, the cleft and distinct frontal angles of the stout column, and the pair of digitate or narrowly clavate wings on each side below the stigmatic surface, versus a triangular lip lamina, and a more slender and sigmoid column of the latter species with short angular knobs only, or without wings altogether.

Epiphytic herb. *Pseudobulbs* caespitose to creeping on a bracteate rhizome, ovoid, ca. 5 × 2 cm, bifoliate, surrounded basally by 7 to 8 distichous sheaths, the uppermost foliaceous. *Leaves* subpetiolate, conduplicate, elliptic to slightly obovate, narrowly acute, ca. 16–17 × 2 cm. *Inflorescence* axillary from the uppermost sheath, an erect to arching, to ca. 70 cm long loosely flexuous panicle, with widely spaced 3 to 4 flexuous, 2- to 4-flowered side-branches (up to 6 or more flowers on 7 branches have been noted on an additional specimen). *Floral bracts* large and conspicuous, involute and cucullate, ca. 10–15 mm long. *Pedicel* with ovary 20–25 mm long. *Flowers* apparently open and stellate; *dorsal sepal* violet, shortly spatulate, then truncate and broadly ovate to elliptic laminate, obtuse, slightly undulate, ca.

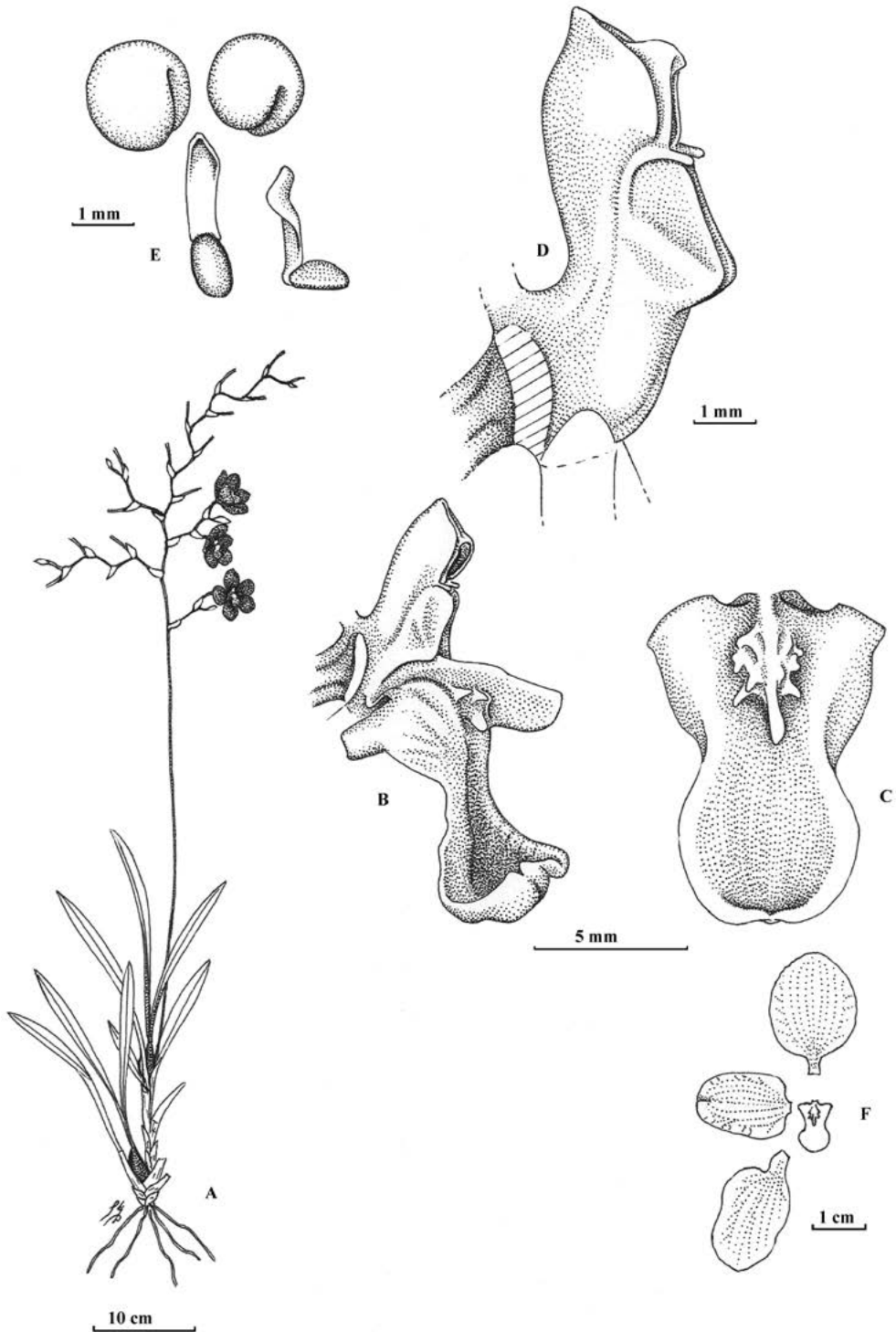


FIGURE 1. *Cyrtochilum violaceum*. A. Plant habit. B. Column and lip lateral view. C. Lip dorsal view. D. Column lateral view. E. Pollinia and stipe. F. Flower dissected. Drawn from holotype by Stig Dalström.

25 × 18 mm; *lateral sepals* similar in color, slightly obliquely spathulate, then obliquely cordate, broadly and weakly pandurate laminate, obtuse, *ca.* 25 × 15 mm; *petals* similar in color, almost sessile, truncate to cordate, then broadly ovate and rounded obtuse with a canaliculate acute, almost folded apex, *ca.* 20 × 13 mm; *lip* rigidly attached to the base of the column and angled downwards, truncate to cordate, pandurate with obtuse triangular lateral lobes, and a rounded and slightly concave, weakly bilobed to minutely apiculate frontlobe, *ca.* 10 × 8 mm; *callus* yellow, of a fleshy denticulate structure emerging from the base and extending to almost half the length of the lamina, with several spreading lower lateral denticles and a dominating, projecting, laterally compressed, nose-like central keel; *anthercap* not seen; *pollinarium* of two globose cleft pollinia on a *ca.* 2 mm long and narrow stipe on a pulvinate viscidium.

PARATYPE: Colombia, Magdalena, Sierra Nevada de Sta. Marta, Transecto del Alto Rio Buritaca, Cuchilla

at 2700 m, Lev. 27. Proyecto Desarrollo, 2 August 1977, *R. Jaramillo M. et al.* 5352 (COL).

DISTRIBUTION: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in reference to the main color of the flower.

Cyrtochilum violaceum is so far only reported from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region in northern Colombia. The poorly explored forests of this isolated mountain are likely to contain a large number of endemic species, both in the fauna and the flora. Several attractive orchid species have been described from there that are found nowhere else, such as *Odontoglossum naevium* Lindl., and *O. nevadense* Rchb.f.

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