

Huntleya fasciata *sp. nov.*

A Showy New *Huntleya* From Panama

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The story behind the discovery of this plant in an area as well collected as Panama, bears out the success of persistent collecting and growing of carefully labelled materials systematically assembled over a period of several years' time.

I first learned of the existence of "... a smaller flowered *Huntleya* species..." from the region of El Valle de Anton through Henry Butcher, venerable collector of that region for forty or more years. In a casual letter Mr. Butcher advised me of his observations on the existence of this species, which he had seen in flower and collected in the interior jungle areas of Valle de Anton, Cocolé of Panama, and which had been occasionally grown and flowered by the hobbyists of the Canal Zone. A methodical search for the plant amongst the collections of the Canal Zone residents was carried out by myself through the courtesy of George Martin and Mrs. Edna Jackson amongst the hobbyists on both sides of the isthmus in 1964, but none had seen or heard of the plant — nor had it in their collections. However, determined to get a plant and check out the possibilities of a different *Huntleya* species from this region, I enlisted the aid of Mrs. Edna Jackson, then a resident of the Canal Zone. She was to go into the area of El Valle and search for the plant or attempt to acquire *Huntleya* plants brought in by natives or other collectors. She forwards this somewhat humorous account of her journey after the plant.

"El Valle de Anton in the interior of the Republic of Panama is approximately ninety miles from the Pacific side of the Panama Canal Zone. The village of El Valle is made up mostly of summer residences of both Panama City and the Canal Zone. The weather is ideal with bright sunny days and a cool breeze during the day but around four o'clock in the afternoon a light fog will begin to fall. By the time the sun has set one will need a light sweater for the out-of-doors and a blanket at bedtime.

"The jungles of El Valle de Anton house in native type, thatched-roof houses a number of Indian tribes, members of which gain most of their livelihood from the mountains or streams of the area. And also, most of them live within a three to eight hour walk from the village. They are a very honest and religious people. As the only church is miles from their home, they can be seen shortly after sunup on Sunday mornings winding down to the village carrying their tropical produce which they plan to sell to the residents and 'Sunday visitors.' With the money earned from these sales they buy that which the jungle does not provide, go to eleven o'clock mass, and then start the long trek home to be seen no more until next Sunday.

"The best way to 'collect' the rarer orchid species of the interior jungles of El Valle, hence, is to be at the foot of the

path Sunday mornings as they come to town from the bush onto the road. There we stop each person who has any plant in flower. To them there is only one orchid, the *Espiritu Santo*, or Holy Ghost (*Peristeria elata*). The rest are just *flores*. Yet, they bring in most of the showy orchid species which occur in the interior of El Valle, but hardly ever bring in an unflowering plant.

"That is the way I collected the *Huntleya*! I was the guest of Mrs. Luz Guardia de Mendez (whose brother-in-law is the President of Panama) in her summer residence at El Valle. We got up at the crack of dawn Sunday morning, took the car to the foot of the path at the road and waited. A little girl of about nine years of age came out of the bush onto the road headed for the village of El Valle. In her hand she held four plants, two plants of *Lycaste*, one plant of *Pescatorea cerina* and your *Huntleya*. And as best I can remember I paid her price for four plants, 25¢?"

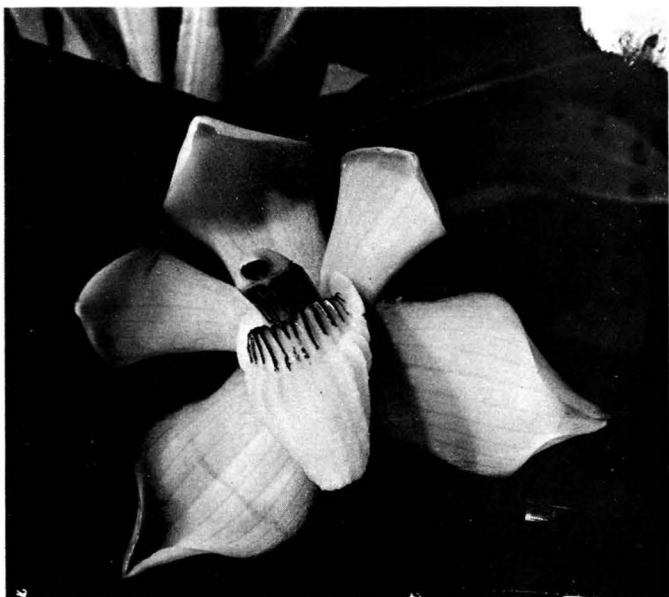
MRS. EDNA JACKSON

The author is most obliged to Mrs. Jackson for her persistence in obtaining this plant for the Arboretum Research Collection and to Mrs. Rosalie Roth who prepared the accompanying botanical plate from the live plant. The *Lycaste* flowered and proved to be *Lycaste macrophylla* subs. *panamanensis*.

Huntleya fasciata Fowlie, sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica, acaulis, 20-30 cm. alta; rhizomate valde abbreviato; radicibus filiformibus, flexuosis, glabris; foliis in quoque surculo 3-5 erectis, oblanceolato-ligulatis, breviter acuminatis, basin versus sensim paulo angustatis, 17-25 cm. longis, supra medium 3.8-4 cm. latis; inflorescentiis ex axillis foliorum singulis, pro genere longibus, pedunculo gracili, pauci-vaginulato, 3-4 cm. longo; bractea ovata, acuminata, ovario multoties brevior; flore in genere inter normal, glabro; sepalis patentibus elliptico-lanceolatis, acuminatis, 3.5-4 cm. longis, 1.2-1.4 cm. latis, lateralibus obliquis; petalis obliquis lanceolato-ovatis anguste, acuminatis, quam sepala subaequilongis et subaequilatis; ungue labelli gracili, lineari, 4-5 mm. longo, lamina obtrullata vel angulato-obovata, acuminata, integra, 1.8-2.2 cm. longa, supra medium 1-1.2 cm. lata, basi crista flabellata semilunata peralta lacerata inter apices laterales .8 cm. lata ornata, segmentis cristae gracillimis subulatis, medianis paulo elongatis; columna leviter curvata, apicem versus paulo dilatata, 1.2-1.4 cm. alta, brachis lateralibus oblique semi-oblongis, bene evolutis, porrecto-patentibus, pro genere brevibus; ovario cum pedicello gracili c. 10 cm. longo. Pollinia 4.

Diagnosis; Species similis Huntleya brevis Schlechter Colombiae, discrepans ab multo longiore pedicello, coloris



Pescatorea cerina (Lindl. & Paxt.) Rchb.f. El Valle de Anton, J64P3 Panama.

differentis, et floribus multo grandis; ex *Huntleya meleagris* Lindley et *Huntleya burtii* (Endres & Rchb. f.) Rolfe *ab floribus multo minoribus, segmentis angustioribus et callo differente.*

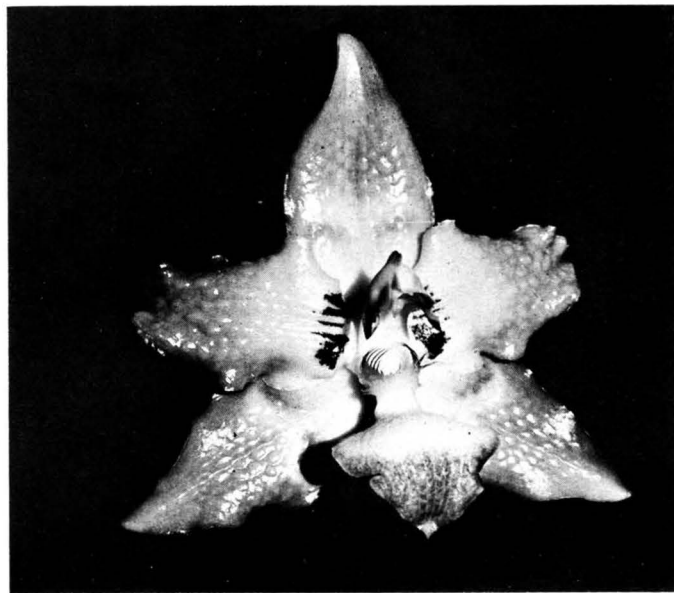
Collection: From a plant collected by Mrs. Edna Jackson at El Valle de Anton, 3,000 ft. Coclé, Panama in September of 1964. J64 P23. Type deposited in Herbarium of UCLA, paratype in liquid at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia.

This species has sepals and petals of a yellowish green ground color which are barred bright red-brown over their distal third but with yellowish tips. There is a much lighter barring of yellowish tan over their proximal third with whitish extreme proximal portions. A prominent narrow crossband, 2 mm. wide separates the brightly red-barréd zone from the reddish tan zone. The labellum has a deeply blood stained dark red (close to Nickerson Color Fan 2.5 R 3/7) midlobe with narrow yellow border and acuminate yellow tip which basally is an immaculate white. The column is immaculate white.

This species is closely related to *Huntleya brevis* Schlechter from Colombia from which it differs in the much longer floral peduncles, color pattern and larger, differently shaped flowers. From *Huntleya lucida* (Rolfe) Rolfe it is distinguished by its gently recurved apex of the labellum (not abruptly upturned at the apex as in that species), and by its petals being narrower in width than the dorsal sepal (not broader as in the latter species). Although *H. lucida* (Rolfe) Rolfe is cross-banded it does not reach the high degree of ornateness present in the described species. *Huntleya burtii* has a much broader labellum, greatly



Huntleya wallisii (Rchb.f.) Fowl., *comb. nov.*, from a plant collected at Jardines Quebrada, 37 km. E. of Nariño, elev. 4,300 ft., Caldas, COLOMBIA FH64C52.



Huntleya burtii (Endres & Rchb.f.) Rolfe. Between Turrialba and El Porvenir, elev. 650m., Costa Rica F62CR29.1.

different color pattern, larger flowers and curious pebbly structure on the anterior surface of the sepals and petals.

Since writing of this article I have had occasion to study slides in the collection of Helmuth Schmidt-Mumm of Bogota, Colombia. Amongst these transparencies is a slide of *Huntleya fasciata* brought in by a native collector, ostensibly from northwestern Antioquia, Colombia, which extends somewhat the range of the new species.