ORCHIDS OF THE SOUTHERN CONE (1830–2000) – PART IV. MAEVIA NOEMÍ CORREA'S *FLORA PATAGONICA*

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ABSTRACT. Maevia Noemí Correa (1914–2005) will always be remembered as the director and editor of an outstanding work, *Flora Patagonica*, in which she assumed the treatment of several plant families, among them the Orchidaceae. Published between 1969 and 1999, the work was the product of 30 years of dedicated research and fieldwork, resulting in the publication of eight volumes and extraordinary plant collections, now housed in Argentinian and foreign herbaria. Popularly known as *The Dame of the Orchids*, Correa must be considered one of the most relevant Argentinian botanists of the 20th century. In honor of her birth on February 14th, the day has been designated as "The Day of the Orchidophile".

KEYWORDS / PALABRAS CLAVE: Argentina, Chile, Maevia N. Correa, Orchidaceae, Patagonia

EXPLORATION OF PATAGONIA, GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND. At the southern end of South America, shared by Argentina and Chile, lies the region of Patagonia (Fig. 1). It comprises the southern section of the Andes, as well as deserts and grasslands, to the east of the mountain range. The Argentinian Patagonia faces the Atlantic Ocean, while the Chilean Patagonia faces the Pacific. At its most southern point lies the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego.

The northern boundary of Chilean Patagonia is marked by the Reloncaví Estuary, while the Colorado and Barrancas Rivers, flowing from the Andes to the Atlantic, serve as the northern limit of Argentinian Patagonia.

The flora of Patagonia is extremely diverse, with clearly differentiated regions within it. The coast region in Río Negro and Chubut is a transition zone between the Chaco Forest and the typical Patagonia steppe where pastures and bushes dominate the landscape (Fig. 2). Getting into central Patagonia, the pastures become less fertile, and the most notable feature is the expanding desert created by man. This is the result of the extensive grazing of goats and sheep, combined with centuries of deforestation. In the western mountain range, the vegetation changes from the steppe to the Patagonian Andean Forest, also known as the sub-Antarctic Forest. This forest is dominated by *araucarias*, a genus of about twenty

species of primitive conifers found only in the cordilleras between Argentina and Chile.

In Austral Patagonia and Tiera del Fuego, as well as in the Falkland Islands (the Malvinas), the vegetation is reduced to a minimum: thin layers of herbs and ferns, along with small forests of bushes. The flora of these regions is currently under significant threat by several processes, including global climate change, livestock grazing, camp burning, visitor impact and spread of invasive species.

In Southern Patagonia, the country connects to the Atlantic Ocean through the strip that gave the name to the region: The Strait of Magellan. Here, the scenery changes considerably, featuring fiords and canals, along with dozens of small towns surrounded by water, hills and mountains. In all of Magallanes, there are glaciers and snowdrifts, formed by the continuous movement of these formations, which began over a million years ago (Fig. 3). Glaciers and fierce winds shaped have played a crucial role in shaping the landscapes. The majority of these glaciers, however, are receding and losing parts of their surfaces due to the warming temperatures of the water, a phenomenon attributed to global warming (Fig. 4).

The highest mountains in this area include Murallon Volcano, with an altitude of 3800 m, making it the highest of the region, Lautaro Volcano



Figure 1. Map of Patagonia by J. Courbes dated 1621 in the Relación del viaje que por orden de su Magd y acuerdo del real Consejo de Indias hizieron los capitanes Bartolome Garcia de Nodal y Gonçalo de Nodal... al descubrimiento del Estrecho nuebo de s. Vicente y reconosimieº del de Magallanes..., by Bartolomé García de Nodal, Madrid.

(3623 m), Darwin Mount/Mount Darwin (2438 m) and Sarmiento Mount (2187 m). The globally renowned Torres del Paine are also found/situated in this part of the country, standing at an elevation of 3050 m (Fig. 5).

Several botanists and travelers visited the region during the 18th and 19th centuries. In chronological order, we should start by mentioning Philibert Commerson (1727–1773), who visited the Falkland Islands and the Strait of Magellan in 1767, as



FIGURE 2. Patagonian grassland. Unknown photographer.



FIGURE 3. Perito Moreno Glacier. Photograph by Luca Galuzzi.



FIGURE 4. Tierra del Fuego National Park. Unknown photographer.



FIGURE 5. Fitz Roy Peak, Patagonia. Photograph by Dmitry Pichugin.

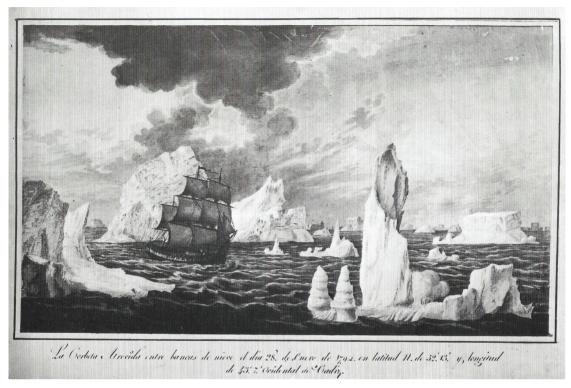


FIGURE 6. The *Atrevida*, one of Malaspina's corvettes, around Cape Horn, January 1794. By Fernando Bambrila, painter of the expedition.

part of the world circumnavigation led by Louis Antoine de Bougainville. During his journey, Commerson collected several species of orchids, including Chloraea commersonii Brongn. [today accepted name: Gavilea lutea (Comm. ex Pers.) M.N.Correa], Chloraea bougainvilleana Franch [today accepted name: Chloraea magellanica Hook.f.], and Codonorchis lessonii (d'Urv.) Lindl. In 1769, Joseph Banks (1743-1820), accompanied by Daniel Solander (1733-1782), landed in Tierra del Fuego, during James Cook's first voyage to the Pacific Ocean aboard the Endeavour. During this expedition, Solander collected Codonorchis lessonii, later beautifully illustrated by Sydney Parkinson in Banks' famous Florilegium. During his Pacific expedition, Alessandro Malaspina (1754-1810) briefly visited the Malvinas in 1789, reaching them via the challenging route around Cape Horn (Fig. 6).

In 1820, French botanist Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupré (1789–1854), on his return trip from the circumnavigation of the globe under the command

of Louis Claude de Saulces de Freycinet on board of the *Uranie*, suffered the misfortune of losing the ship in a storm near the Falkland Islands. Officers and crew managed to save themselves, but, unfortunately, the scientific collections were lost. In 1822, Jules Sébastien César Dumont d'Urville (1790–1842), on board of the *Coquille*, visited the Falkland Islands, Patagonia and Chile, in the company of René-Primevère Lesson (1794–1849). As the botanist of the expedition, Lesson collected a few orchid specimens, among them *Codonorchis lessonii*.

In 1831, Charles R. Darwin (1809–1882) embarked on *HMS Beagle* and returned home five years later, in 1836, after circumnavigating the world. In 1832, the expedition reached southern Patagonia. Due to his seasickness, Darwin disembarked the ship in Bahia Blanca, Argentina, and crossed the country on horseback, rejoining the ship in Tierra del Fuego. In this location, he collected a new orchid species, later described by Hooker as *Chloraea magellanica* (Fig. 7).



FIGURE 7. *Chloraea magellanica* Hook. Type specimen. Kew herbarium K000463614. LANKESTERIANA 23(3). 2023. © *Universidad de Costa Rica, 2023*.

A leading figure in Argentinian natural history, Carlo Luigi Spegazzini (1858-1926) (Fig. 8) was born on the 20th of April 1858, in Bairo, Torino, in northern Italy. He took courses at the School of Viticulture and Oenology in Conegliano (Venice), graduating in 1879. Believing that botanical studies in Italy were well covered by other botanists, he decided to explore other countries and sailed to Argentina, where he disembarked in December 1879, in Buenos Aires. In 1881, soon after his arrival, Spegazzini took part in Lieutenant Santiago Boves' expedition to Tierra del Fuego. After numerous adventures, including swimming ashore with his botanical collections after a shipwreck, he returned to Buenos Aires in September 1882, with a collection of over 1100 botanical specimens.

In 1884, Spegazzini played a pivotal role as one of the founders of the La Plata National University (Fig. 9). Appointed as professor of Natural Sciences, Agronomy, Chemistry and Pharmacy, he went on to establish the university's botanical garden and arboretum. Over the years, he extended his botanical collections, taking part in over twenty expeditions, with some of them taking him as far as Brazil, Paraguay and Chile.

According to Katinas et al. (2000), Spegazzini described a total of eleven new orchid species, all in co-authorship with Kraenzlin: Chloraea alborosea Kraenzl. & Speg. [today accepted name Gavilea glandulifera (Poepp.) M.N.Correa], Chloraea chica Speg. & Kraenzl. [today accepted name Gavilea chica (Speg. & Kraenzl.) Chemisquy], Chloraea cholilensis Speg. & Kraenzl. (today accepted name Chloraea alpina Poepp.) (Fig. 10), Chloraea hookeriana Speg. & Kraenzl. (today accepted name Chloraea alpina Poepp.), Chloraea hystrix Speg. & Kraenzl. (today accepted name Chloraea magellanica), Chloraea phoenicea Speg., Chloraea pleistodactyla Kraenzl. & Speg.(today accepted name Chloraea piquichen Lindl.), and Chloraea praecincta Speg. & Kraenzl.

Lucien Leon Hauman-Merck (1880–1965) was a Belgian botanist, who studied and collected plants in South America and Africa. After receiving his education, he relocated to Argentina, where he obtained a position in the Department of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine at

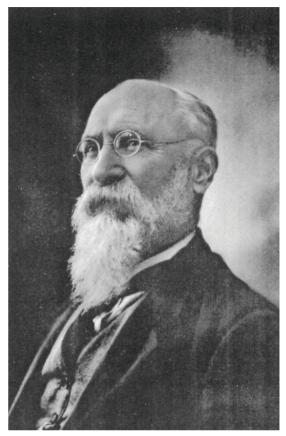


FIGURE 8. Carlo Luigi Spegazzini (1858–1926). Unknown photographer.

the University of Buenos Aires. From 1904 to 1925, he taught classes in botany, plant pathology; and agricultural microbiology at the university. In 1910, he laid the foundations for the botanical garden of the University of Buenos Aires. During his botanical expeditions, he collected and described a number of new orchid species, among them *Chloraea bella* Hauman, *Chloraea castillonii* Hauman (Fig. 11), *Chloraea cogniauxii* Hauman., *Chloraea laxiflora* Hauman, and *Chloraea subpandurata* Hauman (Fig. 12).

In 1927, Hauman returned to Europe, where, from 1928 to 1949, he held the position of professor of botany at the Free University of Brussels. In 1949, he returned to Argentina as an honorary professor at the University of Buenos Aires. The "Jardín Botánico Lucien Hauman" at the university is named in his honor.



Figure 9. Main building of the Universidad de la Plata, ca. 1910. Unknown photographer.

MAEVIA NOEMÍ CORREA (1914–2005): A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH. Maevia N. Correa, "Nemi" for all who knew her (Fig. 13), was a person of great optimism and unwavering will. She spent most of her life and her botanical activity in the company of her husband Osvaldo Boelcke (1920–1990), with whom she shared projects of great magnitude. They complemented each other and generously opened their home to both local and foreign visiting botanists who wanted to undertake studies on the flora of Argentina.

Correa was born in Buenos Aires on February 14th, 1914, and graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of La Plata. Her early interest in orchids led her to undertake, under the guidance of Dr. Àngel I. Cabrera, the study of the "Argentinian Orchids of the tribe Polychondreae Schlechter, subtribe Spiranthinae Pfitzer", This research earned her a doctorate in Natural Sciences from the same university. In 1947, she was appointed Assistant at the Chair of Phanerogams and from 1955 to 1958, she held a

similar position at the Chair of Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology. Nevertheless, she never felt at ease with teaching and had an aversion to speaking in public. Between 1956–1957, she obtained a grant from the American Association of University Women to study at the Department of Botany of the University of California, Berkeley.

An important event in Correa's professional life was the establishment of the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria ("National Institute of Technology in Agriculture and Livestock", or INTA), in 1956. INTA's official purpose was "to give impulse and to coordinate the development of research and agricultural extension programs and to improve agricultural enterprises and rural life." In 1958, Correa was appointed as Research Technician at INTA. The rest of her professional life would be closely bound to this institution and one specific project: the taxonomic study of the flora of Argentinian Patagonia, a project she would ultimately bring to its completion and publication.



Figure 10. Chloraea cholilensis Speg. & Kraenzl. Photograph by Diego Alarcòn.



Figure 11. Chloraea castillonii Hauman. Photograph: Instituto de Botánica Darwinion.



FIGURE 12. Chloraea subpandurata Hauman. Photograph: Instituto de Botánica Darwinion.



Figure 13. Maevia N. Correa (1914–2005). Unknown photographer.

In its initial stages, the project required numerous exploratory journeys, aimed to enlarge the botanical collections at INTA. Correa participated in approximately 200 botanical expeditions, the majority of which were to Patagonia, mostly in the company of her husband. Among the memorable journeys were those to the province of Neuquén, the Cordillera de los Vientos, and the lagoons of Varvarco. These expeditions were conducted on horses or mules, often involving specialists from different research centers.

Correa directed the work on *Flora Patagónica* with great enthusiasm and published the first volume in 1969 (Fig. 14). She had to overcome the death of three specialists in different plant families (A. Burkart, S. Botta & R. Rossow). Thus, Correa had to take on the responsibility of the treatment of several plant families, ensuring the completion and publication of the complete *Flora*. She continued her work after retirement, publishing the last volume of the *Flora* in 1999.

In the same year, in recognition of her detailed inventory of the flora of a vast region of Argentina, she was honored with the "Pro Novo Millennium Causa" award.

Between 1981–1990, Correa's role at the Institute of Biological Resources at INTA included both the position of Curator of the Herbarium and Coordinator of the Plan of Argentinian Regional Floras. At the same time, she worked as a researcher ad honorem at the Instituto de Botánica Darwinion, a time she dedicated mainly to the study of her beloved orchids. Finally, in 1979, she received a grant that allowed her to finalize her research on Argentinian orchids at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew and the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris.

While working on the *Flora Patagónica*, Correa published two other important works on Argentinian orchids: "Las especies argentinas del género *Gavilea*", published in 1956, and "*Chloraea*, género sudamericano de Orchidaceae", published in 1969.

During her lifetime, "Dama de las Orquideas", as she was affectionately known among Argentinian orchidologists, was the leading orchid specialist in her country.

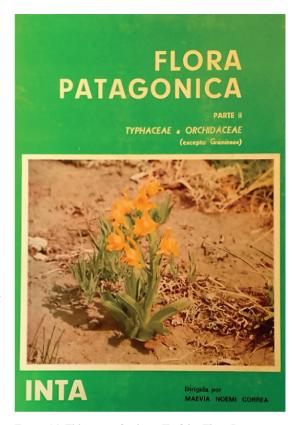


FIGURE 14. Title page of volume II of the *Flora Patagonica*.

In her final years, she dedicated her efforts to a book titled "Las Orquídeas de la Argentina," which, unfortunately, was never published (After Rúgolo de Agrasar & Bacigalupo 2005, Fortunato 2005).

The orchids of the *Flora Patagonica*. Maevia N. Correa documented a total of five genera and fifty-four species of orchids from the Argentinian and Chilean Patagonia (Correa 1956, 1969a, 1969b): *Gavilea* (9 sp.), *Habenaria* (1 sp.), *Codonorchis* (1 sp.), *Chloraea* (42 sp.) and *Brachystele* (1 sp.), as indicated in Table 1. Most species were illustrated in five plates with line drawings.

Herewith the series on the orchids of the Southern Cone is completed. The author believes and hopes to have achieved his purpose: to give the so often overlooked and beautiful terrestrial orchids of southern South America their rightful place in the history of American orchidology.

Table 1. Orchids from Argentina (ARG) and Chile (CHL) described by M.N. Correa in her Flora Patagonica.

Name as indicated by Correa (1956, 1969a, 1969b)	Original collector (date)	Currently accepted name by Zuloaga <i>et al.</i> (2008) and POWO (2023)	Distribution and notes
I. Gavilea Poepp.	Type: Asarca speciosa Lindl. = Chloraea pavonii Pavón (1782–1783), Chile	Gavilea Poepp.	ARG, CHL
G. glandulifera Poepp.	R. and/or F. Philippi (?)	G. glandulifera (Poepp. & Rendl.) M.N.Correa	ARG, CHL (Fig. 15, 16)
G. australis Skottsberg	Carl J. F. Skottsberg (1911)	Gavilea australis (Skottsb.) M.N.Correa	ARG, CHL (Fig. 16)
G. patagonica Skottsberg	Carl J. F. Skottsberg (1911)	Gavilea wittei (Hicken) Ormerod	ARG, CHL (Fig. 21, 24)
G. lutea Comm. ex Pers.	Commerson (1767)	Gavilea lutea (Comm. ex Pers.) M.N.Correa	ARG, CHL (Fig. 19)
G. odoratissima Poepp. & Endl.	E.F. Poeppig (1838)	Gavilea odoratissima Poepp.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 19)
G. macroptera Kraenzl.	A. Krause (?)	Gavilea litoralis (Phil.) M.N.Correa	CHL (Fig. 19, 20)
G. araucana Phil.	Phil. R. (1857–1858)	Gavilea araucana (Phil.) M.N.Correa	ARG, CHL (Fig. 16, 17)
G. kingii Hook.f.	King (1841)	Gavilea kingii (Hook.f.) M.N.Correa	CHL (Fig. 19)
G. supralabellata M.N.Correa	A.E. Johnson	Gavilea supralabellata M.N.Correa	ARG (Fig. 24)
II. Habenaria Willd.	Type: Swartz (1784–1786), Jamaica	Habenaria Willd.	
H. paucifolia Lindl.	T.C. Bridges (1829–1835)	Habenaria pumila Poepp.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 22)
III. Codonorchis Lindl.	Type: Calopogon lessoni Brogn. R.P.Lesson (1834)	Codonorchis Lindl.	ARG, CHL
C. lessonii (Brong.) Lindl.	R.P.Lesson (1834)	Codonorchis lessonii (d'Urv.) Lindl.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 18)
IV. Chloraea Lindl.	Type: L.E. Feuillée (1712–1714), Chile (<i>Epipactis vulgo piquichen</i>)	Chloraea Lindl.	ARG, CHL
C. cylindrostachya Poepp.	E.F. Poeppig (1838)	Chloraea cylindrostachya Poepp.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 24)
C. chica Speg. & Kraenzl.	C. L. Spegazzini (1902)	Gavilea chica (Speg. & Kraenzl.) Chemisquy	ARG, CHL (Fig. 25)
C. lechleri Lindl. ex Kraenzl.	W. Lechler (1850–1854)	Chloraea chrysantha Poepp.	ARG (Fig. 25)
C. virescens (Willd.) Lindl.	L.E. Feuillée (1712–1714)	Chloraea piquichen (Lam.) Lindl.	ARG (Fig. 25)
C. gaudichaudii Brong.	C. Gaudichaud-Beaupré (1820)	Chloraea fonkii Phil.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 25)
C. magellanica Hook.f.	C. Darwin (1832)	Chloraea magellanica Hook.f.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 17, 25)
C. speciosa Poepp.	E.F. Poeppig (1832)	Chloraea speciosa Poepp.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 28)
C. galeata Lindl.	J. Macrae (ca. 1826)	Chloraea galeata Lindl.	CHL
C. cuneata Lindl.	W. Lechler (1850–1854)	Chloraea cuneata Lindl.	CHL. (Fig. 29)
C. bidentata (Poepp.) M.N.Correa	E.F. Poeppig (1832)	Chloraea bidentata (Poepp. & Endl.) M.N.Correa	ARG, CHL
C. nudilabia Poepp.	E.F. Poeppig (1832)	Chloraea nudilabia Poepp.	CHL
C. longipetala Lindl.	J.N. Reynolds (1832)	Chloraea longipetala Lindl.	CHL

C. lamellata Lindl.	J. Macrae (<i>ca.</i> 1826)	Chloraea lamellata Lindl.	CHL
C. barbata Lindl.	???	Chloraea barbata Lindl.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 30)
C. multiflora Lindl.	J. Macrae (<i>ca</i> . 1826)	Chloraea multiflora Lindl.	CHL
C. volkmannii Phil. ex Kraenzl.	H. Volckmann (<i>ca</i> . 1860–1869)	Chloraea volkmannii Phil. ex Kraenzl.	ARG, CHL
C. patagonica Phil.	J. Cox (?)	Chloraea piquichen (Lam.) Lindl.	ARG (Fig. 24)
C. philippii Rchb.f.	B.E. Philippi (<i>ca</i> . 1840–1848)	Chloraea philippii Rchb.f.	ARG, CHL
C. grandiflora Poepp.	E.F. Poeppig (1832)	Chloraea grandiflora Poepp.	CHL
C. heteroglossa Rchb.f.	B.E. Philippi (? – before 1848)	Chloraea heteroglossa Rchb.f.	CHL
C. bletioides Lindl.	J. Macrae (<i>ca</i> . 1826)	Chloraea bletioides Lindl.	CHL
C. disoides var. picta (Kraenzl.) M.N.Correa	Alfred Andeoud (?)	Chloraea disoides var. picta (Phil. ex Kraenzl.) M.N.Correa	CHL
C. gavilu Lindl.	L.E. Feuillée (1712–1714)	Chloraea gavilu Lindl.	CHL (Fig. 23)
C. prodigiosa Rchb.f.	Bessler ???	Chloraea boliviana (Rchb.f.) Kraenz.	ARG
C. cristata Lindl.	???	Chloraea cristata Lindl.	CHL
C. crispa Lindl.	Lord Colchester (??)	Chloraea cristata Lindl.	CHL
C. membranacea Lindl.	J. Tweedie (<i>ca</i> . 1830)	Chloraea membranacea Lindl.	ARG
C. bella Hauman	L.L. Hauman (1918)	Chloraea bella Hauman	ARG
C. castillonii Hauman	L.L. Hauman (<i>ca</i> . 1920)	Chloraea castillonii Hauman	ARG
C. laxiflora Hauman	L.L. Hauman (<i>ca</i> . 1920)	Chloraea laxiflora Hauman	ARG
<i>C. praecincta</i> Speg. & Kraenzl.	C.L. Spegazzini (ca. 1900)	Chloraea praecincta Speg. & Kraenzl.	ARG
C. reticulata Schltr.	???	Chloraea reticulata Schltr.	ARG
C. phoenicea Speg.	C.L. Spegazzini (??)	Chloraea phoenicea Speg.	ARG
C. biserialis Griseb.	???	Chloraea biserialis Griseb.	ARG
C. cogniauxii Haum.	I. Castillon (ca. 1917)	Chloraea cogniauxii Hauman	ARG
C. venosa Rchb.f.	???	Chloraea reticulata Schltr.	ARG
C. elegans M.N.Correa	???	Chloraea elegans M.N.Correa	ARG
C. subpandurata Haum.	I. Castillon (1920)	Chloraea subpandurata Hauman	ARG
C. viridiflora Poepp.	E.F. Poeppig (1832)	Chloraea viridiflora Poepp.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 28)
C. philippii Rchb.f.	B.E. Philippi (<i>ca</i> . 1840–1848)	Chloraea philippii Rchb.f.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 28)
C. alpina Poepp.	E.F. Poeppig (1832)	Chloraea alpina Poepp.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 26)
V. <i>Brachystele</i> Schltr.	Type: Calopogon lessonii Brogn. R.P. Lesson (1834)	Brachystele Schltr.	ARG, CHL
B. unilateralis (Poir.) Schltr.	L.E. Feuillée (1712–1714)	Brachystele unilateralis (Poir.) Schltr.	ARG, CHL (Fig. 27, 2



Figure 15. *Gavilea glandulifera* (Poepp.) M.N.Correa. Photograph by Mary Harte.



Figure 16. Figures 168 to 171, page 192 of volume II, *Flora Patagonica*.



Figure 17. Gavilea araucana (Skottsberg) M.N.Correa. Unknown photographer.



FIGURE 18. Codonorchis lessonii (Brong.) Lindl. Plate 53 of Illustrations of the flowering plants and ferns of the Falkland Islands.

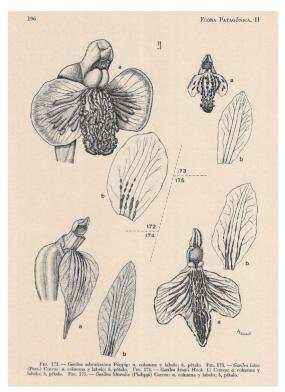


FIGURE 19. Figures 172 to 175, page 196 of volume II, *Flora Patagonica*.



FIGURE 20. Gavilea litoralis (Phil.) M.N.Correa. Photograph by Claudio Vidal.



FIGURE 21. Gavilea wittei (Hicken) Ormerod. Photograph by C. Guerrido.



FIGURE 22. *Habenaria paucifolia* Lindl. Photograph by P. Novoa.

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FIGURE 23. Chloraea gavilu Lindl. Unknown photographer.



 $\label{eq:Figure 24.} Figures~176~to~178, page~198~of~volume~II,~Flora~Patagonica.$

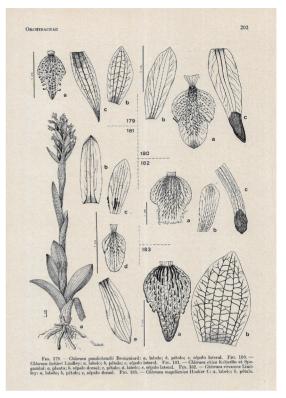


FIGURE 25. Figures 179 to 182, page 203 of volume II, Flora Patagonica.



FIGURE 26. Chloraea alpina Poepp. Photograph by D. Alarcón.



Figure 27. *Brachystele unilateralis* (Poir.) Schltr. Photograph by P. Novoa.

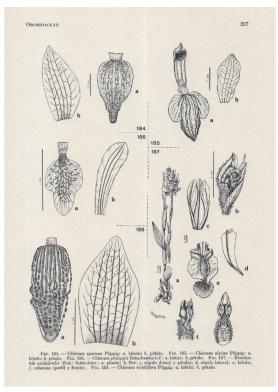


FIGURE 28. Figures 184 to 188, page 207 of volume II, *Flora Patagonica*.



FIGURE 29. *Chloraea cuneata* Lindl. Photograph by Christian Romero.



FIGURE 30. Chloraea barbata Lindl. Unknown photographer.