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A New Species of *Draconanthes* Luer (Orchidaceae, Pleurothallidinae) is Described From the Chingaza National Natural Park, Departamento de Cundinamarca, Colombia.

Carlos Uribe-Velez¹ and Ruben P. Sauleda²

¹Calle 115 #5-23 Bogota, Colombia.

²6442 SW 107 Ct. Miami, FL, 33173.

Abstract

A new species of *Draconanthes* Luer, *Draconanthes chingazaense* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda, is described for Colombia and added to the six other species previously reported for the genus.

The genus *Draconanthes* Luer was first established in 1986 as a subgenus of *Lepanthes* Sw., *Lepanthes* Sw. subgenus *Draconanthes* Luer. Luer established the subgenus to accommodate four Andean species (Luer, 1986). The genus was typified by *Lepanthes aberrans* Schltr. described in 1915 (Schltr., 1915).

Luer elevated the subgenus *Draconanthes* to genus in 1996 (Luer, 1996) but modified the genus concept and only recognized 2 species, *Draconanthes aberrans* (Schltr.) Luer and *Draconanthes bufonis* (Luer & Hirtz) Luer. Luer considered *Lepanthes trachysepala* Schltr. and *Lepanthes prionota* Luer & Hirtz synonyms of *D. aberrans*. The Luer's new concept of *D. aberrans* had a broad morphological variability not common in the pleurothallids (Kolan. *et al.*, 2020).

Kolanowska *et al.* (2020) evaluated the morphological data of the actual variation and specific diversity of an extensive number of specimens of *D. aberrans* and concluded that there is a total of six species in the genus *Draconanthes*, which included 3 new species. Kolanowska *et al.* (2020) proposed a narrower concept of the species classified in the *D. aberrans*-complex due to the morphological differences and the existence of geographical gaps. The following species are recognized:

Draconanthes aberrans (Schltr.) Luer.

Draconanthes ecuadoriana Kolan., S. Nowak & Szlach.

Draconanthes lueriana Kolan., S. Nowak & Szlach.

Draconanthes prionota (Luer & Hirtz) Kolan., S. Nowak & Szlach.

Draconanthes trachysepala (Schltr.) Kolan., S. Nowak & Szlach.

Draconanthes venezuelana Kolan., S. Nowak & Szlach.

Draconanthes bufonis (Luer & Hirtz) Luer was not included in the monograph of *Draconanthes* of Kolanowska *et al.* (2020) because in their opinion it is not a typical representative of the genus in some key characters.

In the Chingaza National Natural Park located in the Eastern Ranges of the Colombian Andes, northeast of Bogotá, Colombia in the department of Cundinamarca a new species of *Draconanthes* was discovered and is here described.

Draconanthes chingazaense Uribe-Velez & Sauleda, *sp. nov.*

Type: Colombia, department of Cundinamarca, Chingaza National Natural Park, 3100 m near the embalse de Chuza. Collector: *Carlos Uribe-Velez, s. n.*, 2019. (Holotype: HPUJ).

Diagnosis

Draconanthes chingazaense is similar to *Draconanthes aberrens* but differs markedly in the fusion of the lateral sepals. In *D. aberrens* the lateral sepals are shortly connate at the base (ca. 0.5 mm) and spreading, the lateral sepals of *D. chingazaense* are fused completely to the apex forming a canoe-like structure. *Draconanthes chingazaense* differs from all of the species of *Draconanthes* because it is the only species with the lateral sepals completely fused to the apex. In addition, the labellum of *D. chingazaense* is narrower and more elongated than the labellum of *D. aberrens*.

Description

Plant to 10 cm tall, caespitose; roots light purple; ramicaul to 4 cm long, slender, erect, enclosed by to 5 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths; leaf to 3 cm long (including short petiole), 1 cm wide, erect, coriaceous, oblong, obtuse; inflorescence erect, sublax raceme, successively flowered up to 8 cm long including the peduncle, to 14 flowers; floral bracts obovate, acute to 4 mm long, 1 mm wide; ovary with pedicel to 3 mm long, verrucose; flowers reddish-orange, sepals pilose-scrabrous externally; dorsal sepal to 8 mm long, 3 mm wide, concave, ovate, acute; lateral sepals completely connate, to 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, narrowly lanceolate, acute; petals to 8 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, linear-falcate, subacute, usually uncinatate; labellum to 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, short claw flat, connate to the column above its base; lamina sagittate in outline, lateral lobes surrounding the column, middle lobe subacute; gynostemium to 4 mm long, slender, erect.



Draconanthes chingazaense Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.



Draconanthes chingazaense Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.

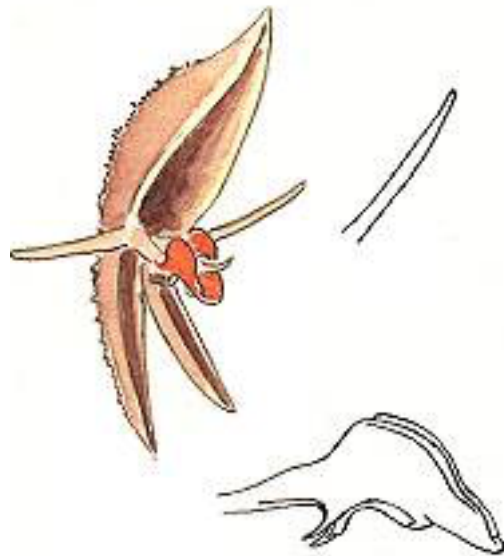


Draconanthes chingazaense Uribe-Velez & Sauleda gynostemium structure demonstrating hinged anther that folds back onto stigma resulting in self-pollination.

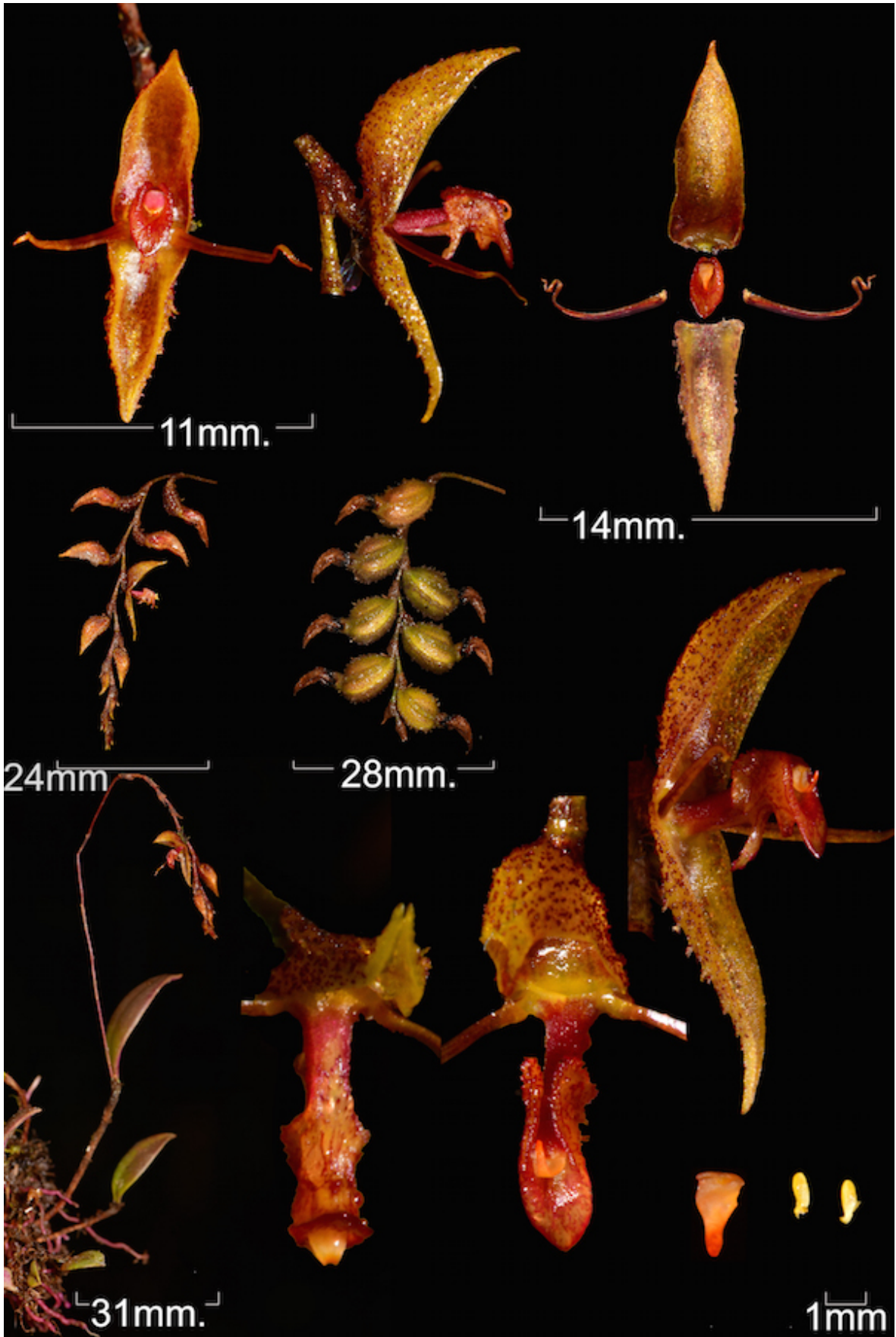


Draconanthes chingazaense Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.

Draconanthes aberrans (Schltr.) Luer.



Draconanthes aberrans (Schltr.) Luer. Illustration of Colombian plant from the archive of Pedro Ortiz Valdivieso.



Draconanthes chingazaense Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.

Literature Cited

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