ISSN 2325-4785

New World Orchidaceae – Nomenclatural Notes
Nomenclatural Note – Issue No. 63
www.newworldorchidaceae.com

February 16, 2020

A New Species in the Genus *Scelochilus* Klotzch (Orchidaceae) is Described for Colombia.

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Abstract

A new species is described in the genus *Scelochilus* Klotzch from Colombia. The differences between *Comparettia* Poeppig & Endlicher and *Scelochilus* are discussed.

The genus *Scelochilus* was established by the German botanist J.F. Klotzch in Allgemeine Gartenzeitung for 1841 (Allg. Gartenzeitung 9: 261), the genus was based on *Scelochilus ottonis* Klotzch, a plant from Venezuela. This species has also been found near Santa Rosa de Cabal, Risaralda, Colombia (personal observation by second author).

Kew (WCSP, 2018) considers the genus *Scelochilus* Klotzch a synonym of *Comparettia* Poeppig & Endlicher based the molecular findings of Chase et al. (2008) in spite of literature morphologically supporting *Scelochilus* as separate genus (Pupulin and Bogarin, 2005). The molecular findings of Neubig et al. (2012) clearly groups and separates the species of *Scelochilus* and *Comparettia*. Szlachetko et al (2015) described new species from Ecuador and Bolivia and again clearly defined the genus *Scelochilus*. In addition Szlachetko and Kolanowska (2015) published a new species of *Scelochilus* and a key to the identification of the Colombian *Scelochilus* species.

Scelochilus is characterized by the flowers usually half closed, the labellum being attached to a short column foot forming an obtuse sack-like mentum, with two nectariferous basal hornlike auricles. The midlobe of the labellum has a bipartite callus with two basal projections inserted into a short spur-like cavity produced by the fusion of the lateral sepals. The labellum is the most distinguishing feature between the two genera. *Comparettia* have large kidney shaped labella and the lateral sepals form a long closed tube that contains nectar. The labella of *Scelochilus* are narrow, simple or narrowly three-lobed.

Kew (WCSP, 2018) lists 6 species for Colombia of *Scelochilus* all as synonyms of *Comparettia*.
Scelochilus blankei Senghas, Caesiana 8: 23 (1997).
Scelochilus langlassei Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 8: 572 (1910).
Scelochilus ottonis Klotzsch, Allg. Gartenzeitung 9: 261 (1841).
Scelochilus palatinus Senghas, Lang & Kast, J. Orchideenfr. 9: 28 (2002).
Scelochilus variegatus Cogn., J. Orchidées 6: 268 (1895).
Scelochilus escobarianus Senghas, Orquideologia 19: 6 (1994). As a synonym of *S. variegatus*.

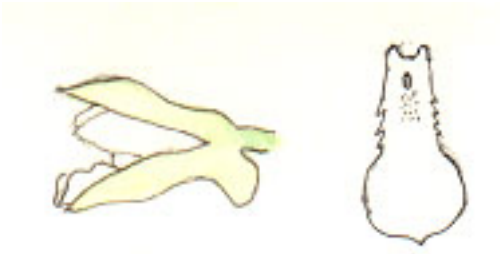
We here chose to follow the previous work of Pupulin and Bogarin (2005) establishing the differences between *Scelochilus* and *Comparettia*, the molecular work of Neubig et al. (2012) and the additional literature of Szlachetko and Kolanowska (2015) and Szlachetko et al. (2015) supporting the concept of the genus *Scelochilus*.

***Scelochilus colombianum* Uribe-Velez and Sauleda sp nov.**

Type: Colombia, Department of Cauca, from La Bota Caucana, near the headwaters of the Caqueta River. From cultivation.
Collector: Jorge Luis Aguirre, s. n., 2018 (HPUJ).

Diagnosis

Scelochilus colombianum does not resemble any of the Colombian species. Most of the Colombian species have either yellow sepals or purple markings on the labellum. *Scelochilus colombianum* has green sepals and a white labellum with only yellow on the crest. The closest resemblance would be to *Scelochilus palatinus* Senghas, Lang & Kast (Orchideenfr. 9: 28. 2002) also a Colombian species. *Scelochilus colombianum* differs from *S. palatinus* in the shape of the labellum. *Scelochilus palatinus* has an orbicular midlobe which is apiculate and the lateral lobes are very narrow and crenulate. *Scelochilus colombianum* has an orbicular midlobe that is emarginate, lateral lobes are elliptic and fimbriated. In addition, the sepals of *S. colombianum* are green, *S. palatinus* has pale yellow sepals.

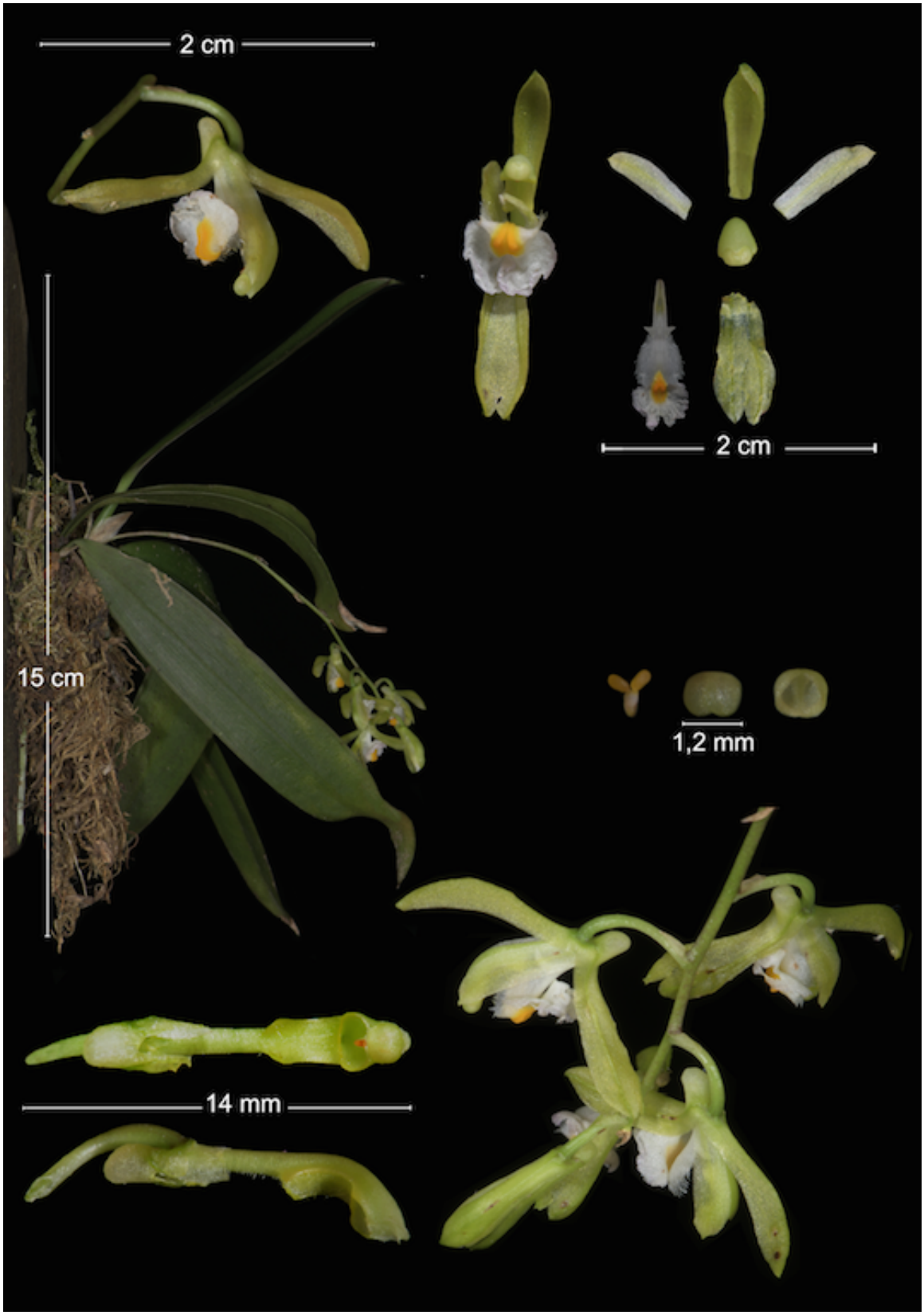


Scelochilus palatinus Senghas, Lang & Kast.

Description

Plant epiphytic, semi-erect, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous; pseudobulbs cylindrical, to 2 cm long, 4 mm wide; base with 2-3 foliaceous sheaths, concealed at the base by the bases of 2—3 foliaceous sheaths, obovate, acute, to 1.8 cm long, 1 cm wide; leaves flattened to slightly conduplicate, petiolate, coriaceous, linear oblong, subacute, lanceolate, petiole to 5 mm long; inflorescence lateral, to 5-flowered, peduncle arching, terete, to 6 cm long, with 4-5 conduplicate, lanceolate, acute bracts, to 3 mm, long, 1 mm wide; floral bracts ovate, acute, to 3 mm long, 2 mm wide; ovary pedicelate to 1 cm long; sepals green, dorsal sepal oblanceolate, subacute, concave, to1 cm long, 4 mm wide, reclined over column, lateral sepals connate for 8 mm into a concave synsepal, to 1.0 cm long, 6 mm wide, apexes subacute, extending at the base into a sepaline, saccate, obtuse spur, to 3 mm long; petals pale green, linear elliptic, subacute, slightly concave, clasping column, to 9 mm long, 3 mm wide; labellum 3-lobed, oblanceolate, to 1.3 cm long, 6 mm wide, basally canaliculate, with two acute lateral protrusions, to 1.0 mm wide, lateral lobes elliptic, to 5 mm long, fimbriated, midlobe orbicular, to 6 mm wide, emarginate, apex bent under causing the bilobed yellow callus to protrude; column terete with two thin lateral wings toward the apex, to 12 mm long, 3 mm wide; stigma transverse oval, to 3 mm wide; anther cap oval, to 1.2 mm wide.

Scelochilus colombianum Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.



Scelochilus colombianum Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.

Scelochilus colombianum Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.

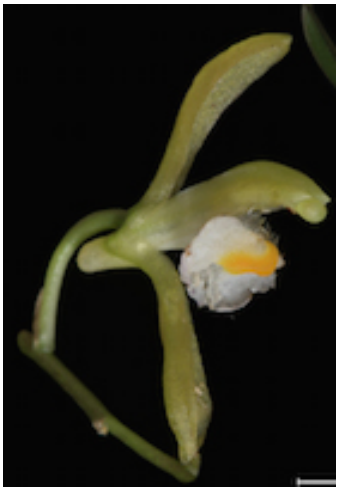
Comparettia species demonstrating long nectiferous sepaline tube.

Comparettia ignea P.Ortiz.

Comparettia macroplectron Rchb.f. & Triana.

Comparettia falcata Poepp. & Endl.

Comparettia falcata alba Poepp. & Endl.



Scelochilus colombianum Uribe-Velez and Sauleda with sac-like mentum.

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