

PLATYCORYNE LISOWSKIANA (ORCHIDACEAE, ORCHIDOIDEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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Abstract. A new species of the genus *Platycoryne* Rchb.f. from the Central African Republic is described, illustrated, and compared with *P. megalorrhyncha* Summerh.

Key words: Orchidaceae, *Platycoryne*, new species, Africa

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Platycoryne Rchb.f. is a genus relatively uniform in general flower morphology, but greatly variable in gynostemium structure. It includes 25 terrestrial species, restricted in distribution to mainland Africa and Madagascar. The plants have ovoid to ellipsoid tubers. The stem is erect, rather slender and delicate, glabrous. The usually narrow leaves are scattered along the stem or gathered in a tuft at the base of the stem. The inflorescence is lax or dense, subcapitate, 1- to many-flowered. The flowers are resupinate, usually brightly colored: orange or yellow, occasionally greenish, rarely white. The dorsal sepal is wide, cochleate. Petals are usually adherent to the dorsal sepal, forming a prominent galea, usually simple but rarely with a short lobe at the base on the front margin. Lateral sepals are deflexed. The lip is ligulate, entire or sometimes three-lobed with short lateral lobes. The spur is cylindrical, more or less swollen at the apex. The gynostemium is usually short and massive, occasionally elongate. The anther is erect to slightly deflexed, elongate to short and massive. Antherophores are filiform, often upcurved. Pollinia are oblong or ellipsoid, sometimes falcate. Caudiculae are longer, occasionally much longer, than pollinia. Auriculae are prominent, sessile or shortly stalked, ellipsoid or ovoid, placed very close to stigmaphores. Stigmaphores are club-like to ligulate, short and massive. The rostellum middle lobe is large or relatively short, subulate

to dome-like, adnate to the inner surface of the connective or placed in front of the anther. Rostellophores are elongate, slightly twisted at the apex, erect or upcurved. Viscidia can be very small or large.

While revising herbarium materials of the genus *Platycoryne* we found a few specimens from the Central African Republic which we believe should be recognized as a distinct species. These are described here as a new species.

Platycoryne lisowskiana Szlach. & Kras, *sp. nov.*

Fig. 1

Species haec P. megalorrhynchae Summerh. similis sed foliis caulinis brevibus, calcare ovario longiori, antheriophoris lobo centrali rostellii aequilongis et lobo centrali rostellii delicato filiformique recedit.

TYPE: Central African Republic, *Fay 7287* (HOLOTYPE – P!; ISOTYPES – K!, WAG!).

ETYMOLOGY. Dedicated to Professor Stanisław Lisowski (1926–2002), an eminent Polish scientist, who botanized extensively in Africa.

Tubers one or two, 1–2 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm in diameter, narrowly ellipsoid. Stem 23–35 cm tall, erect, delicate, glabrous. Leaves 5–7, more or less basal, erect to sub-erect, the remaining ones scattered along stem, 3.0–6.5 cm long and 0.6–0.9 cm wide, narrowly lanceolate, acute, suberect, decreasing in size towards the apex of the stem,

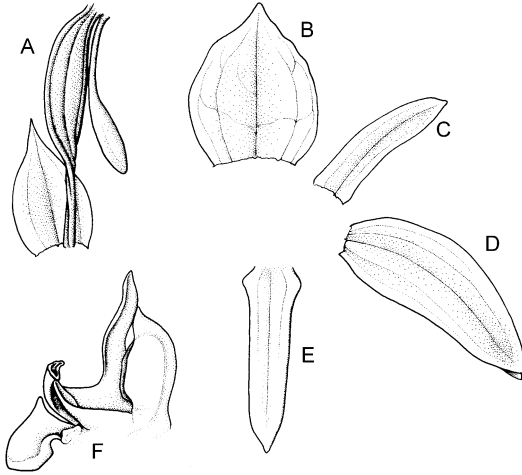


Fig. 1. *Platycoryne lisowskiana* Szlach. & Kras. A – spur, ovary, pedicel and floral bract, B – dorsal sepal, C – petal, D – lateral sepal, E – lip, F – gynostemium, side view (*Fay 7287*, P).

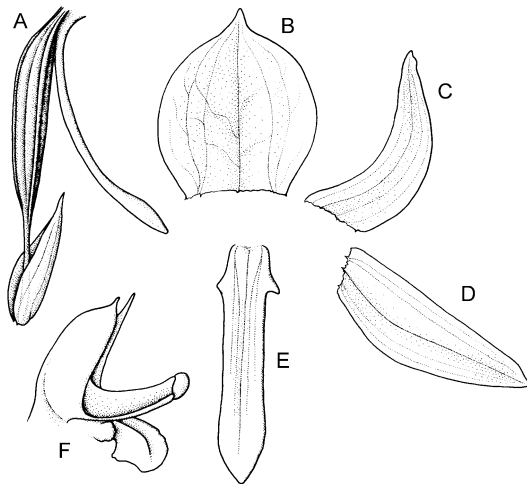


Fig. 2. *Platycoryne megalorrhyncha* Summerh. A – spur, ovary, pedicel and floral bract, B – dorsal sepal, C – petal, D – lateral sepal, E – lip, F – gynostemium, side view (*Meurillon 803*, P).

the last upper ones bract-like, ca 2 cm long, the lower 1–2 sheath-like. Inflorescence 5.0–6.5 cm long, 2–5-flowered, lax. Flowers small, resupinate, yellow to orange. Floral bracts 7–17 mm long, broadly ovate to semi-orbicular, apiculate, gla-

brous. Pedicel 7–15 mm long. Ovary 15–20 mm long, erect, cylindrical. Dorsal sepal 7–10 mm long, 6 mm wide, semi-orbicular, apiculate, cochleate, glabrous, nerves unbranched. Petals 6–9 mm long, 2 mm wide, entire, linear-lanceolate, falcate, acute or subacute. Lateral sepals 8–10 mm long, 2.5–3.5 mm wide, obliquely oblong-lanceolate, obtuse to subacute. Lip 7–8 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, ligulate, obtuse, rather fleshy with revolute margins, pendent, occasionally with small basal tooth. Spur 15–20 mm long, 1 mm in diameter, narrowly cylindrical, blunt to subacute. Anther 3.3 mm tall, the connective apiculate, the rostellum middle lobe adnate to the anther, slightly longer than the connective.

ECOLOGY. Dry area in thin clayey loam on laterite, seasonally inundated, sand on sandstone shield in meadows. Flowering May–July.

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION. Known so far from the Central African Republic only.

REPRESENTATIVE SPECIMENS. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. Manovo-Gounda-St. Floris Natl. Park, 3 km S of Koumbala-Pende confluence on W side of Pende Creek, 8°23'N, 21°16'E, 14 July 1985, *Fay 7287* (K!, P!, WAG!, MO); Yalinga, 17 May 1923, *Le Testu 2955* (BM!, P!).

NOTES. *Platycoryne lisowskiana* differs from the closely related *P. megalorrhyncha* Summerh. (Fig. 2) in having leaves shorter than the internodes, the spur longer than the ovary, antherophores as long as the rostellum middle lobe, and the rostellum middle lobe delicate, filiform (Figs 1 & 2).

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