

A NEW SPECIES OF *CYCLOPOGON* (ORCHIDACEAE, SPIRANTHOIDEAE) FROM COLOMBIA

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Abstract. *Cyclopogon antioquiensis* Szlach. & Kolan., a new species from Colombia, is described and illustrated. The differences between *C. antioquiensis* and similar species are briefly discussed and a key to the species of *Cyclopogon* subg. *Cyclopogon* is given. Information about the ecology and distribution of the new species is provided.

Key words: Cyclopogoninae, taxonomy, biodiversity, Antioquia, Neotropics

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INTRODUCTION

Cyclopogon C. Presl embraces 68–82 species distributed from Argentina to Florida (Salazar 2003; Rutkowski *et al.* 2008). The only exception to the Neotropical representatives of the genus is *C. obliquus* (J. J. Sm.) Szlach., having a disjunctive geographical range. This orchid was described based on Asian material and has also been reported from the Caribbean and Central America south to Costa Rica (Blanco 2002). Ortiz Valdivieso and Uribe Vélez (2007) listed 12 species of *Cyclopogon* occurring in Colombia. Five of them were found in Antioquia Department where they grow above 1500 m a.s.l. (Idárraga & Callejas 2011).

The genus *Cyclopogon* was described by Carl Presl in 1827 without selecting the generic type, which was designated by Garay (1978) as *C. ovalifolium* C. Presl. Based on morphological characters, Dressler (1993) classified the genus within subtribe Spiranthinae Lindl. Two years later, Szlachetko (1995) proposed a reconsideration of the spiranthoid orchids with a description of a new subtribe, Cyclopogoninae, which included *Cyclopogon* Presl and *Pelexia* Lindl. and others. Data from molecular studies (Chase *et al.* 2003) suggested a wide concept of Spiranthinae, placing

here also representatives of Stenorrhynchidinae and Cyclopogoninae *sensu* Szlachetko (1995). In this approach, however, synapomorphies (e.g., adhesion of the lip margins to the gynostemium sides) are observed (Salazar *et al.* 2003).

Despite the controversial taxonomical position of the genus, its representatives are easily distinguished from the other spiranthoid orchids by the petiolate leaves forming a basal rosette, pubescent inflorescence, resupinate, tubular, externally pubescent flowers with a shortly clawed, bipartite lip adnate to the lateral sepals and margins adherent to the sides of the gynostemium forming a tunnel-like access to the nectary. The gynostemium of *Cyclopogon* is rather slender and erect, with the column part as long as or shorter than the anther. The column-foot is short and obliquely adnate to the ovary apex. The anther is erect, motile, dorsiventrally flattened and 2-chambered. The pollinia are powdery with a short caudiculae in the apical parts. The ventral, bilobed stigma is flat, and the membranous, linear-lanceolate rostellum is erect or curved upwards. The single, detachable, obovoid to ovoid viscidium is produced on the upper surface of the rostellum (Szlachetko & Rutkowski 2000).

Cyclopogon species grow in moist to wet montane and cloud forest, ravines, riparian vegetation

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in tropical deciduous and semi-deciduous forests, shrubby savannas and grasslands, and also in rocky fields and bogs. They have been reported growing from sea level up to *ca* 3000 m a.s.l. (Salazar 2003). The halictid bees were reported as pollinators of Brazilian species, but *Bombus* spp. and *Apis* spp. were also observed visiting *Cyclopogon* flowers. Some representatives probably are self-pollinating (Catling 1990).

Our revision of the orchid material stored in the Colombian National Herbarium (COL) revealed the existence of a distinctive *Cyclopogon* species, described here as new. The perianth segment characteristics are based on our examination of three flowers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW SPECIES

Cyclopogon antioquiensis Szlach. & Kolan.,
sp. nov. Fig. 1

The species is distinguished from all other members of *Cyclopogon* subgenus *Cyclopogon* described so far by its shortly clawed lip, lip auricles ornamented by horn-like projections, and petals prominently constricted below the apex.

HOLOTYPE: COLOMBIA, Antioquia, Mpio. Urrao. Corregimiento La Encarnacion. Vereda Calles, Parque Nacional Natural Las Orquideas, frente a la cabana de Calles. 6°31'9.1"N 76°15'8.4"W. Vegetacion secundaria a la orilla del rio Calles, Alt. 1357 m, 25 Jan. 2011, *Betancur et al. 14624* (COL).

Plants *ca* 30 cm tall. Leaves 7, basal, rosulate; petiole up to 6.5 cm long, narrow; blade up to 7.5 cm long and 3.2 cm wide, ovate-lanceolate, acute. Peduncle erect, slender, glandular in the upper half, covered by 13 herbaceous, acute, lanceolate sheaths. Rachis 6 cm long, densely many-flowered. Flowers small, tubular, glabrous. Floral bracts 13 mm long, lanceolate, acute, herbaceous. Subsessile ovary 8–10 mm long. Dorsal sepal 7.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, oblong-obovate, abruptly narrowed towards blunt apex, concave above middle, 3-nerved. Petals 7 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, subfalcate, oblanceolate above linear base, constricted in apical 1/6–1/5, apical part subquadrate, truncate, 1-nerved. Lateral sepals 9 mm long,

0.9 mm wide, connate together in lower half, oblong-ligulate, somewhat oblique at apex, sub-obtuse, 1-nerved. Lip 9 mm long, shortly clawed; hypochile and isthmus 7 mm long, 2 mm wide at broadest point, oblong, with two wing-like lobes near middle, covered by glandular hairs in center;

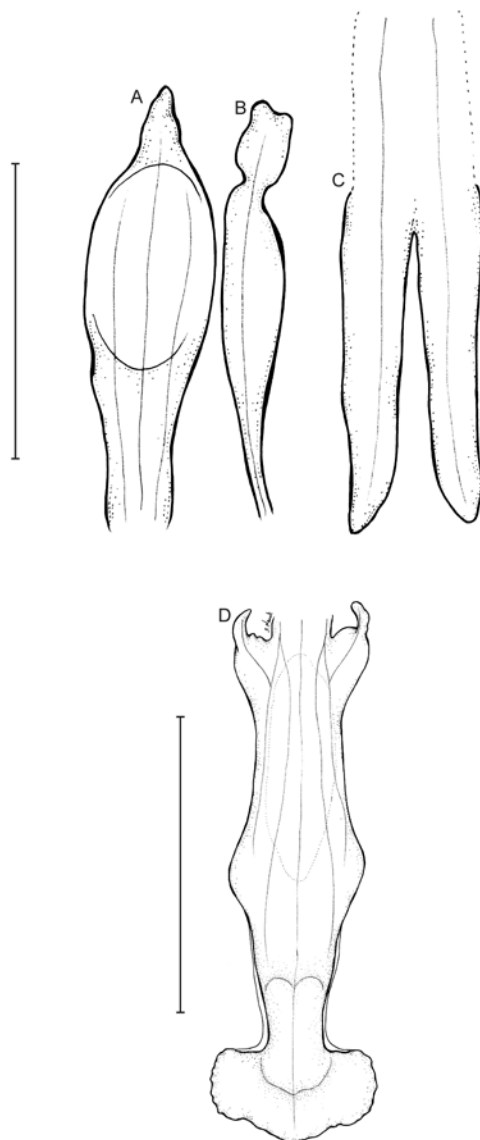


Fig. 1. *Cyclopogon antioquiensis* Szlach. & Kolan. *sp. nov.* – dissected perianth. A – dorsal sepal, B – petal, C – lateral sepals, D – lip (drawn by S. Nowak from the holotype). Scale bars = 5 mm.

Table 1. Comparative morphology of *Cyclopogon antioquiensis* Szlach. & Kolan. *sp. nov.*, *C. ovalifolium* C. Presl and *C. secundum* E. A. Christenson.

Character	<i>C. antioquiensis</i>	<i>C. ovalifolium</i>	<i>C. secundum</i>
Leaf blade	Ovate-lanceolate, acute	Obliquely elliptic to ovate-elliptic, acute	Elliptic, attenuate, subacute
Inflorescence	Densely flowered, secund; peduncle covered with many lanceolate sheaths	Subdensely flowered, secund; peduncle covered with several lanceolate sheaths	Densely flowered, secund; peduncle covered with several lanceolate sheaths
Floral bracts	Lanceolate, about 13 mm long	Linear to linear-setaceous, up to 15 mm long	Narrowly linear-lanceolate, aciculate, up to 13 mm long
Sepals	Oblong-obovate to oblong-ligulate, subobtusate	Linear-ligulate, obtuse	Oblong, obtuse
Petals	Oblanceolate above the linear base, truncate	Linear-subspathulate, rounded	Oblong, obtuse
Sepaline tube	4.5 mm long	2.5–3.5 mm long	3 mm long
Lip – basal auricles	Ornamented by horn-like projection	Rounded, flat, truncate	Rounded, retrorse
Lip – hypochile	Oblong, covered by glandular hairs in the center; up to 2 mm wide	Linear-oblong, covered by glandular hairs in the center; up to 3 mm wide	Oblong, covered by glandular hairs in the center; up to 3 mm wide
Lip – epichile	transversely elliptic, obscurely 3-lobed at the apex, thickened and papillate at the base	Transversely elliptic, papillate	Transversely elliptic, obscurely lobulate, densely pubescent at the central part

epichile 1.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, transversely elliptic, obscurely 3-lobed at apex, thickened and papillate at base. Gynostemium 6 mm long. Capsule not seen.

ETYMOLOGY. In reference to the place of origin of the type specimen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY. *Cyclopogon antioquiensis* is known so far from the Western Cordillera in Antioquia Department, Colombia. It grows at ca 1350 m a.s.l. Flowering in January. As it is known from a single specimen, its conservation status cannot be given. Because the flowers of *Cyclopogon* are not showy or attractive to horticulturists and the plants are difficult to maintain in culture, the direct risk to wild plants from collectors is not significant.

NOTES. There are three species of *Cyclopogon* subg. *Cyclopogon* described so far: *C. ovalifolium* C. Presl, widely distributed in the Andes, *C. secundum* E. A. Christenson from Ecuador, and the above-described *C. antioquiensis*. All of them are characterized by the presence of the sepaline tube;

that character separates it clearly from the subgenus *Beadlea* (Small) Szlach. The morphological characters of the three species are compared in Table 1.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CYCLOPOGON* SUBG. *CYCLOPOGON*

1. Lip epichile densely pubescent *C. secundum* E. A. Christenson
- 1* Lip epichile papillate, never pubescent 2
2. Basal lip auricles truncate *C. ovalifolium* C. Presl
- 2* Basal lip auricles ornamented by horn-like projection *C. antioquiensis* Szlach. & Kolan.

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