

Encyclia cordigera

(KUNTH) DRESSLER
TAXON 13: 247. 1964

Synonyms: *Cymbidium cordigerum* Kunth in F.W.H.von Humboldt, A.J.A.Bonpland & C.S.Kunth, Nov. Gen. Sp. 1: 341 1816.
Epidendrum cordigerum (Kunth) Foldats, Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat. 28(115-116): 234. 1969.

Type: Venezuela. Crescit regione ferventissima Provinciae Venezuelae inter Santa Barbara et Porto Cabello, alt. 85 hex. Floret Februarii, *Humboldt & Bonpland s.n.* (holotype: P).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia, Cesar: Municipality of Valledupar, Mariangola, Cuenca Rio Diluvio, 320 m. December 2014. *William Vargas 26782* (COL; LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, to 90 cm tall including the inflorescence. *Roots* produced from the base of the pseudobulb and the rhizome, flexuous. *Pseudobulbs* ovoid to pyriform, 5–8 × 4–5 cm, subtended by ovate, acute papery sheaths. *Leaves* oblong to elliptic-oblong, conduplicate, dorsally keeled, coriaceous, acute to subacute, 30–38 × 2–4 cm. *Inflorescence* apical, racemose, distichous, peduncle to 50 cm, raceme to 35 cm. *Ovary* and pedicel 2 cm long, smooth. *Flowers* resupinate, fragrant, the sepals and petals brownish purple with pink at the base, the lip white, striped with purple at the base of the lateral lobes and along the callus, the midlobe strongly suffused with pink from the middle toward the apex. *Dorsal sepal* spatulate-oblancoelate, acute, apically incurved, 2.0–2.5 × 0.8–1 cm. *Lateral sepals* spatulate-oblancoelate, acute, slightly apiculate, dorsally carinate, strongly incurved toward the apex, 2.0–2.5 × 0.8–1 cm. *Petals* unguiculate, spatulate-ovate, acute, 2.0–2.5 × 0.8–1.0 cm. *Lip* basally adnate to the flanks of the column, unguiculate, three-lobed, 3 × 2.8 cm across lateral lobes; lateral lobes oblong-lanceolate, falcate, obtuse and flanking the column in natural position, striped at the base with purple, 0.8–1.0 × 0.5–0.7 cm; midlobe 2.3–2.5 × 3.0 cm, suborbicular, obovate, obtuse. *Column* subterete, clavate, truncate, basally sulcate, 1.0 cm long, subequal; anther apical; stigma dorsal. *Anther* cap cucullate, orbicular, 4-celled. *Pollinia* four, ovate, laterally complanate, in two pairs with caudicles, without viscidium.

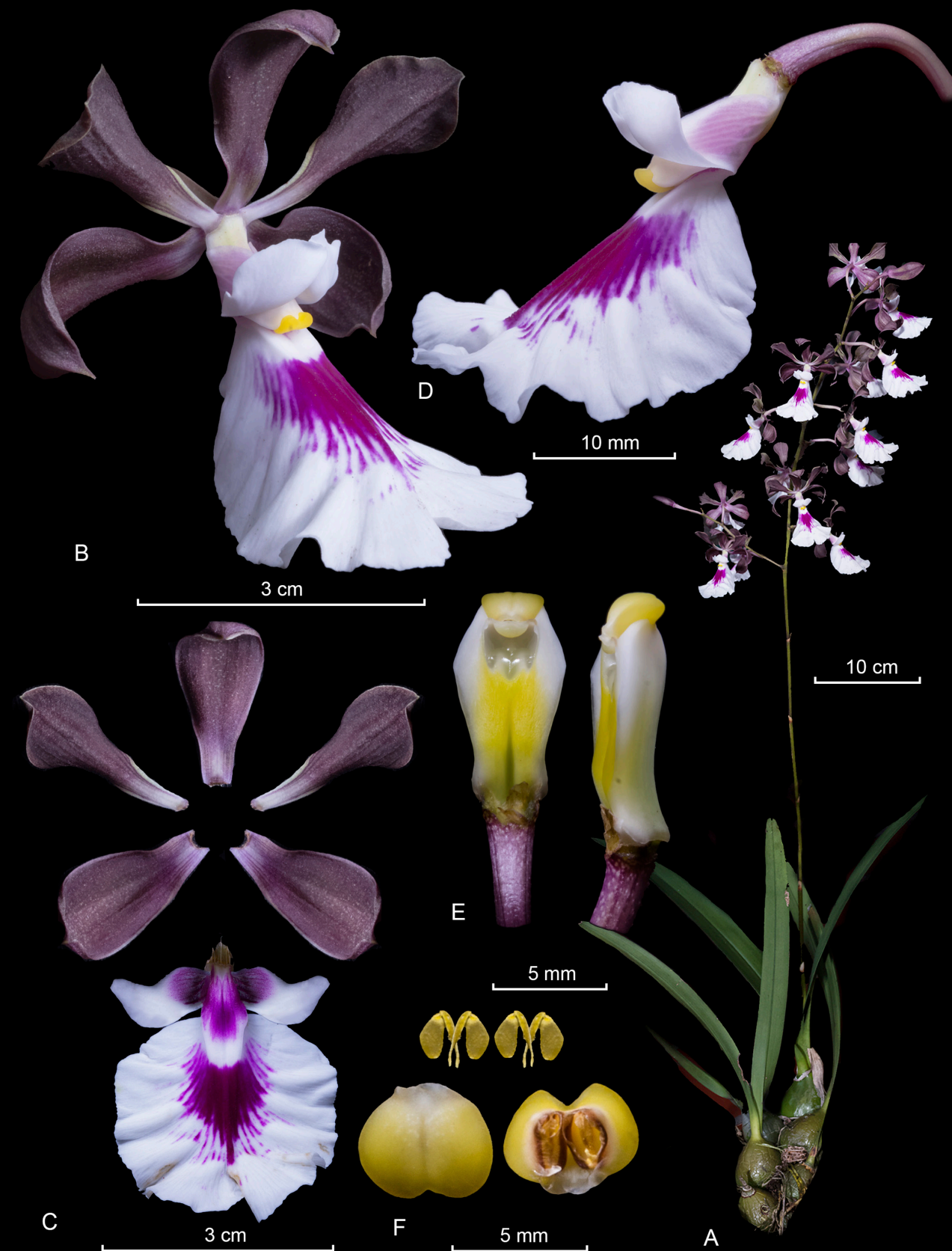
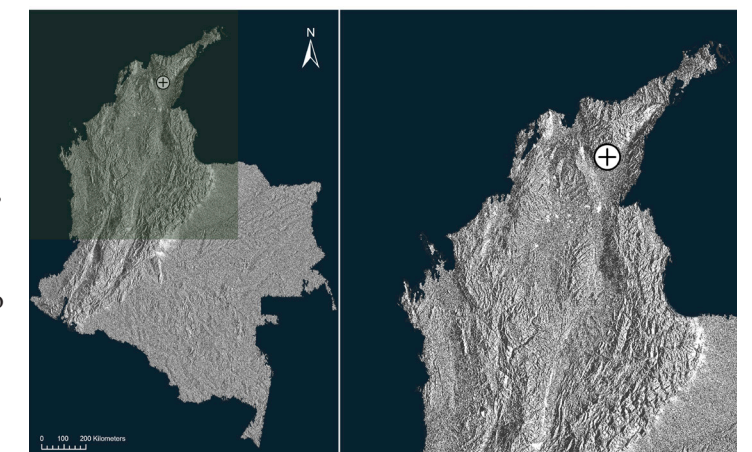
Encyclia cordigera (Kunth) Dressler is recognized by the ovoid to pyriform pseudobulbs, the racemose inflorescence, the large,

showy and fragrant flowers with sepals curved at the apex, a deeply 3-lobed, white and variously striped with purple lip, and the subterete column without wings.

The most similar species is probably *E. macrochila* (Hook.) Neumann from Central America, with which it has long been considered conspecific. In *E. macrochila* the petals lack the characteristic purplish coloration, and the magenta striping on the lip is reduced to a few strikes in front to the callus. *Encyclia cordigera* is also similar to the Brazilian *E. albopurpurea* (B.Rodrigues) Porto & Brade and *E. doeringii* Hoehne. The first, only known from a few collections in the Pará state, has a much smaller midlobe of the lip, and both the median and the lateral lobes are completely suffused by rich pink. The latter, only known from the type and apparently restricted to Paraná, could perhaps be a synonym of *E. cordigera*, but the amply disjunct distribution range let us suggest that it deserves specific recognition.

References:

Pupulin, F. & Bogarín, D. 2012. A taxonomic revision of *Encyclia* (Orchidaceae: Laeliinae) in Costa Rica. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* (168): 395–448.



LCDP: *Encyclia cordigera* (Kunth) Dressler. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Column and lip. E. Column, side and dorsal view. F. Pollinia and anther cap.

