



### A NEW SPECIES OF *BRASSIA*

A large sampling of *Brassia* flowers from different populations is actually on the way at Lankester Botanical Gardens, University of Costa Rica, to assess natural variation and specific limits among Costa Rican taxa (Pupulin and Quesada-Chanto, in prep.). During the collecting activities aimed at broadening our knowledge about distribution of *Brassia* species in less explored areas, a distinctive taxon was discovered along the Pacific slopes of the Talamanca range, and it is hereafter described as new to science:

***Brassia suavissima*** Pupulin & Bogarín, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: Costa Rica. San José: Pérez Zeledón, Páramo, San Ramón Sur, toward Río Berlín, ca. 09°25'N 83°44'W, 1420–1640 m, collected by Esteban Viquez Jiménez, June 2003, flowered in cultivation in the collection of Marta Herra, 29 May 2004, *F. Pupulin* 5236 (Holotype: USJ; Isotypes: CR, USJ-Spirit) (Fig. 7, 8).

*Species* Brassiae signatae Rchb. f. similis, inflorescentiae dense multiflorae, labello niveo immaculato dentibus apicalibus conspicuis erectis rotundatis ornato, sepalis chloro-luteis immaculatis recedit.

**Plant** epiphytic, caespitose to shortly creeping. **Rhizome** stout, the secondary stems produced 2.5–4.0 cm apart. **Roots** fleshy, flexuous, ca. 2 mm in diameter. **Pseudobulbs** narrowly elliptic-oblong, strongly complanate-ancipitous, 9.5–14 × 1.8–2.6 cm, apically 2- (rarely 1-) foliate, subtended at the base by 5–7 sheaths, the lower one triangular, acute, scarious, the upper one foliaceous. **Leaves** narrowly ligulate-elliptic, acute, subcoriaceous, 14.5–28 × 2.4–3.4 cm, constricted at the base into a conduplicate petiole ca. 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** a lateral raceme, emerging from the upper foliaceous sheath, many- (18–30) flowered, the flowers distichously arranged, to 35 cm long; peduncle terete, to 18 cm long, provided with 3–5 imbricating, triangular, acute bracts, to 8 × 5 mm. **Flower bracts** small, triangular, acute, 5 × 2.5 mm. **Ovary** pedicellate, terete to subclavate, 15 mm long including the pedicel. **Flowers** small for the genus, spreading, very scented (vanillalike), progressively smaller toward the inflorescence apex, the sepals and petals greenish yellow, the petals with pale brown blotches in the basal quarter, the lip white, with the callus basally bright yellow, the column greenish white. **Dorsal sepal** narrowly lanceolate, attenuate, 20–26 × 3.5–4.5 mm. **Lateral sepals**

Fig. 7. *Brassia suavissima*. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Lip. E. Column and lip, lateral view. F. Column, ventral view. G. Pollinarium, two views. H. Anther cap. A–C, E–H, from the holotype; D, from Viquez Jiménez 2. Drawing by the authors.

obliquely narrowly lanceolate, attenuate, 22–38 × 3–3.5. **Petals** porrect, the apices converging in natural position, elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, 10–12 × 2–2.5 mm. **Lip** elliptic-subpandurate to ovate-rhombic, acute, shortly apiculate, 11–15 × 6–8.5 mm; disc with two parallel, erect keels, densely long-pubescent on interfaces, and two apical, distinct, rounded teeth. **Column** short, stout, terete, truncate, 3 mm long, the stigma transverse. **Anther cap** cucullate, ovate, papillose. **Pollinia** 2, obovate, on a small elliptic stipe, the margins infolded, abaxially provided with a narrow triangular keel; viscidium ovate-triangular, brown.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: Same locality of the type, E. Viquez Jiménez 2 (USJ-Spirit; USJ-drawings).

DERIVATION OF NAME: From the Latin *suavissimus*, meaning very scented, in reference to the strong vanilla scent of the flowers.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality in Costa Rica.

ECOLOGY: Epiphytic in lower montane moist forests (upland forest with intermediate temperatures) along the Pacific watershed of the Talamanca range, at 1,500 m (4,900 feet).