

**Condylago furculifera** Dressler & Bogarín, *sp. nov.* TYPE: PANAMA. Veraguas: Chilagro, near Cerro Arizona, west of Santa Fé, 1000–1200 m, flowered in cultivation at Finca Dracula, Cerro Punta, Chiriquí, 14 December 2006, R. L. Dressler 6835 (Holotype: PMA; Isotype: JBL-spirit). Fig. 1–2.

*Condylagini rodrigoii pedicellis perennibus furcatiformibus, sepalis lateralibus leviter villosis margine ciliato (versus villosis), petalis obovato-panduratis lobulis basalibus decurrentibus destitutis (versus obovato-rhombicis lobis decurrentibus in base), callo ovato viscoso (versus orbiculari viscoso) praecipue differt.*

*Plant* epiphytic, caespitose, with monophyllous stems, to 10 cm tall. *Roots* slender, flexuous, 0.5–0.8 mm in diam. *Stems* (ramicauls) 1-leaved, terete, stout, erect, 1.8–2.2 cm long, enclosed at the base by 2 short (to 1.0–1.3 mm long), tubular, conduplicate, acute, imbricating, papyraceous sheaths. *Leaf* elliptic, oblanceolate to obovate, conduplicate, coriaceous, erect, acute, slightly emarginate or 3-denticulate, 6.0–8.3 cm long, 1.4–2.1 cm wide, cuneate at the base into a short petiole. *Inflorescence* a

distichous, loose raceme, progressively congested near the apex, to 30 cm long (including the peduncle). *Peduncle* stout, cylindrical, 12–18 cm long, with tubular, amplexicaul, ovate-triangular papyraceous sheaths (to 8 mm long). *Raceme* 8–15 cm long, zig-zag, flowering successively. *Pedicel* Y-shaped, persistent, 0.5–1.6 cm long, the divisions 10–15 mm long, flattened, subacute, subobtusate or obliquely bifid, green when young, progressively shorter toward the apex of inflorescence. *Floral bract* amplexicaul, tubular, acute, papyraceous, to 1 cm long. *Ovary* 3 mm long, stalked, the stalk, or “epipedicel,” to 2 cm long, cylindrical, smooth. *Flowers* green boldly spotted and suffused with dark purple. *Dorsal sepal* rectangular to slightly obovate, acute, the margins basally decurrent on the column foot, with revolute margins toward the apex, sparsely white-villose near apex, cuneate, ending in a short erose apicule, 6.5–7.0 × 3.5–3.7 mm. *Lateral sepals* connate for 3.5 mm (to near middle), forming a mentum with the column foot, ovate to oblong, sparsely white-villose with revolute entire margins, acute to subacute, cuneate, ending in short erose apicules, 7.5–8.0 × 2.5–2.7 mm, to 5.5 mm wide where connate. *Petals* obovate-pandurate, acute, glabrous, 4.5 × 2.0 mm, slightly thickened, without decurrent basal lobes. *Lip* ovate to oblong, extended below into a pair of deflexed, rigid, short (to 1 mm long) clavate appendages, hinged to the under surface of the column foot by a slender, flexible, membranous strap; with a flat, ovate, viscid callus, the apex obtuse, with two short parallel keels distally, 4.6 × 1.5 mm. *Column* semiterete, with a bulbous foot in contact with the appendages of the lip, slightly alate at margins, erose to denticulate at apex, 6.6 × 1.5 mm; the stigma ventral; anther apical. *Pollinia* not seen.

**Distribution:** known only from Province of Veraguas in Panama, but may well occur in the mountains of eastern Bocas del Toro Province.

**Etymology:** the epithet is based on the Latin diminutive *furcula*, “little fork,” in allusion to the unusual and characteristic fork-like pedicels of the inflorescence of this species.

**Habitat and ecology:** this species was collected in the mountains west of Santa Fé de Veraguas, near Cerro Arizona, which has cloud forest on its upper slopes.

**Phenology:** flowers in cultivation from September to January.

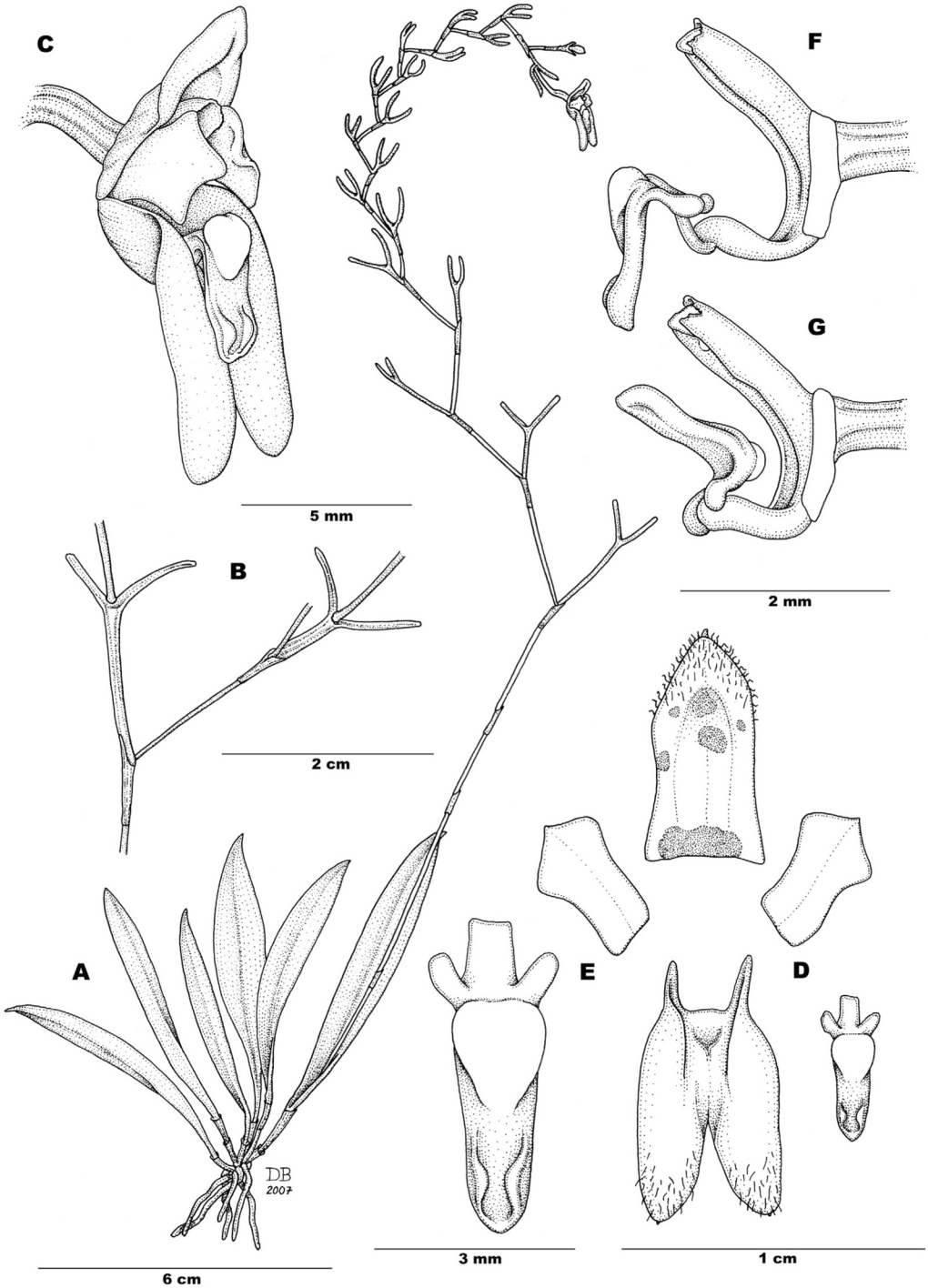


FIGURE 1. *Condylogo furculifera* Dressler & Bogarín. **A**, habit; **B**, portion of inflorescence, showing the Y-shaped pedicels; **C**, flower in natural position; **D**, dissected perianth; **E**, lip (at higher magnification); **F**, column and lip, lateral view, with the lip not tripped; **G**, same, with the lip tripped. Drawn from the holotype by Diego Bogarín.

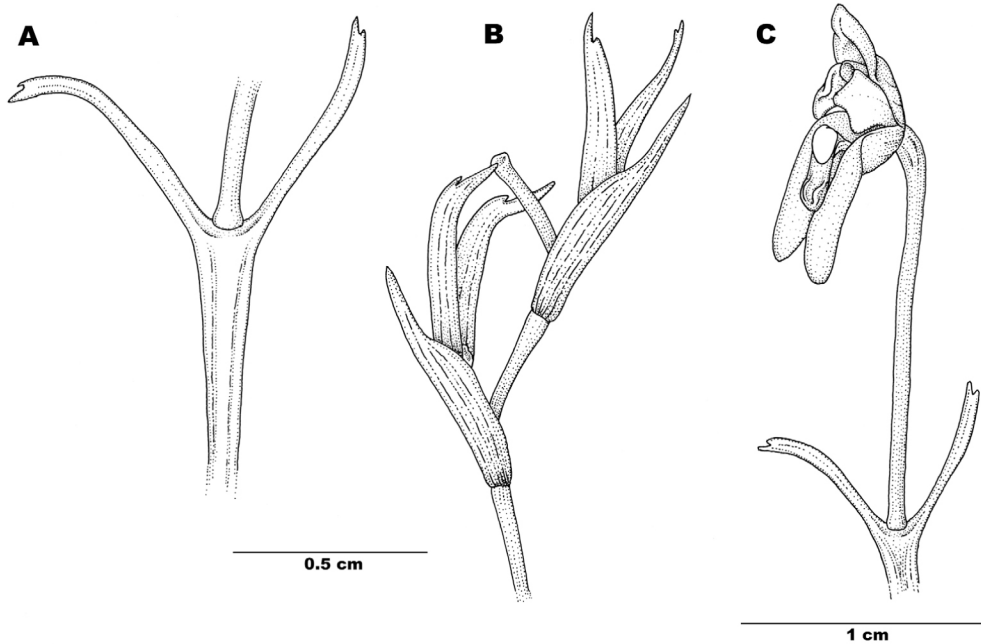


FIGURE 2. Details of the inflorescence of *Condylago furculifera* Dressler & Bogarín. **A**, articulation between the bifurcate pedicel and the stalk (epipedicel); **B**, apex of the inflorescence showing the shorter apical pedicels covered by the floral bracts; **C**, pedicel articulated to the stalk (epipedicel) supporting the ovary. Drawn from the holotype by Diego Bogarín.

#### DISCUSSION

Until the discovery of this species, the genus *Condylago* was thought to be monospecific (Luer, 1987). *Condylago furculifera* is distinguished from the Colombian *C. rodrigoii* by the sparsely villous sepals (vs. densely white-villous), the obovate-pandurate petals without decurrent basal lobes (vs. rhombic with decurrent basal lobes), and the ovate (vs. orbicular) viscid callus. However, the most conspicuous difference is the bizarre inflorescence with persistent, Y-shaped, flattened pedicels, articulated to the stalk (or “epipedicel”) supporting the ovary (Fig. 2).

In the species described here, the pedicels are quite prominent and somewhat flattened. They are divided just below the apical abscission with spreading, acute to obliquely bifid lobules. The pedicel diverges from the axis of the raceme 2.0–4.5 mm above the base of the floral bract, suggesting that the pedicels are basally adnate to the axis. What is especially unusual in the Pleurothallidinae is that the ovary is sub-

tended and separated from the pedicel by a slender stalk (to 2 cm long). This stalk, here termed the “epipedicel,” between the abscission and the ovary seems somewhat analogous to the gynophore of Capparidaceae and some other plant groups but, as mentioned above, it supports the ovary (Fig. 2). This feature, then, falsifies the customary characterization of the Pleurothallidinae as having the ovaries articulated directly to the pedicels. Whereas the original drawing of *Condylago rodrigoii* (Luer, 1982) suggests that an ovary 2–3 mm long might have been articulated to a pedicel, the photograph in Escobar (1990) shows that *C. rodrigoii*, like *C. furculifera*, has an “epipedicel” 8–10 mm long below the ovary with a distinct articulation between the epipedicel and the pedicel, though the pedicels of *C. rodrigoii* are neither flattened nor Y-shaped. Indeed, Ortiz (1995) confirms the presence of a “neck” between the ovary and the pedicel in the Colombian *Condylago*.

Persistent pedicels are especially prominent in some of the groups treated as *Stelis* by Pridgeon and Chase (2001). They are found in *Pleurothallis* subgenera *Dracontea*, *Mystax*, *Rhynchopera*, and *Pleurothallis* sect. *Effusae* of subgenus *Specklinia* (Luer, 1986). Comparison with these related groups suggests that the stalk between the floral bract and the abscission layer of *Condylago* is the pedicel, and we have thus used “epipedicel” for the stalk between the abscission and the flower.

Luer (1987) stated that *Condylago* superficially resembles the widespread *Pleurothallis flexuosa* (Poepp. & Endl.) Lindl. of *Pleurothallis* sect. *Effusae* in features of plant, inflorescence, and flowers. The lips, however, are quite different.

According to Pridgeon et al. (2001), molecular evidence showed *Condylago rodrigoii* to be placed near *Pleurothallis segoviensis* Rchb. f.; however, morphologically they are quite distinct by the set of features that define *Condylago* (see introduction). Geographically, *Pleurothallis segoviensis* ranges from Panama to Guatemala, but the genus *Condylago* seems to be restricted to Panama and Colombia and has not been reported from Costa Rica or further north. At the moment, the relationships within some groups of Pleurothallidinae remain unclear. We prefer to accept *Condylago* as a small, easily recognized group, rather than to consider it in the large and taxonomically unresolved genus *Stelis* s.l.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CONDYLAGO*

- 1a. Pedicels simple, not Y-shaped; sepals densely white-villose toward the apex; petals rhombic with decurrent basal lobes; callus of lip orbicular . . . . . *C. rodrigoii*  
 1b. Pedicels bifurcate, Y-shaped; sepals sparsely villose toward the apex; petals obovate-pandurate without decurrent basal lobes; callus of lip ovate . . . . . *C. furculifera*