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# *Dracula carlueri*, a new orchid from Costa Rica

Johan Hermans

Summary: *Draeula carlueri* from north-west Costa Rica, is newly described. Plants which have recently flowered in cultivation are in some characteristics close to the well-known *Dracula erythrochaete* (Rehb.f.) Luer. They differ substantially to be recognised as a distinct species which is described as follows:

***Dracula carlueri*** J Hermans & Cribb **sp. nov.**

Inter species *Dracularum*, sed flore campanulato sepalis comatis dis-

tinguenda. Planta mediocris caespitosa; folia angusta cuneato-ligulata acuta; sejala alba profunde connata marginibus involutis, intus pubescenti, caudis rubris elongatis ferentibus; labellum epichilo suborbiculare concavo bilamellato, marginibus denticulatis. Typos: Costa Rica, Puntarenas Prov., road to Santa-Elena near Monteverde, January 1990, *J Hermans* 2886 (holotypus K, isotypus MO).

A medium-sized, densely caespitose semi-terrestrial or epiphytic *herb* with 15-18 mm long ramicauls, each bearing two or three tubular, brown sheaths. *Leaf* thin-textured, narrowly elliptic-obovate, acute, 10-12 cm. x 1.5-1.8 cm, carinate on lower surface. Inflorescence 9-11 cm long, suberect, with flowers produced singly but successively; peduncle slightly verrucose; bract 11 mm long. *Flowers* deeply campanulate; sepals creamy white suffused with pinkish brown on outside, yellowish white, spotted with orange towards the base with green central veins running into sepaline tails, densely purple-pubescent within; petals cream-coloured marked with dark red; *lip* white with pink ridges; column yellow; pedicel 12-15 mm long; ovary smooth, 5-6 mm long. *Sepals* connate almost to apex, forming a deep bell-shaped cup; dorsal sepal 8.2 cm x 1.7 cm; lateral sepals 7.8 cm x 2.2 cm. *Petals* oblong, obtuse, 3-4 mm x 2 mm, slightly papillose between the laminae. *Lip* shell-shaped, 6 x 3 mm, margins slightly involute and denticulate. *Column* semi-terete from a broad base, 4 x 2 mm.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Known only from north-west Costa Rica.

**HABITAT.** Semi-terrestrial in leaf litter and mosses at the base of tall trees



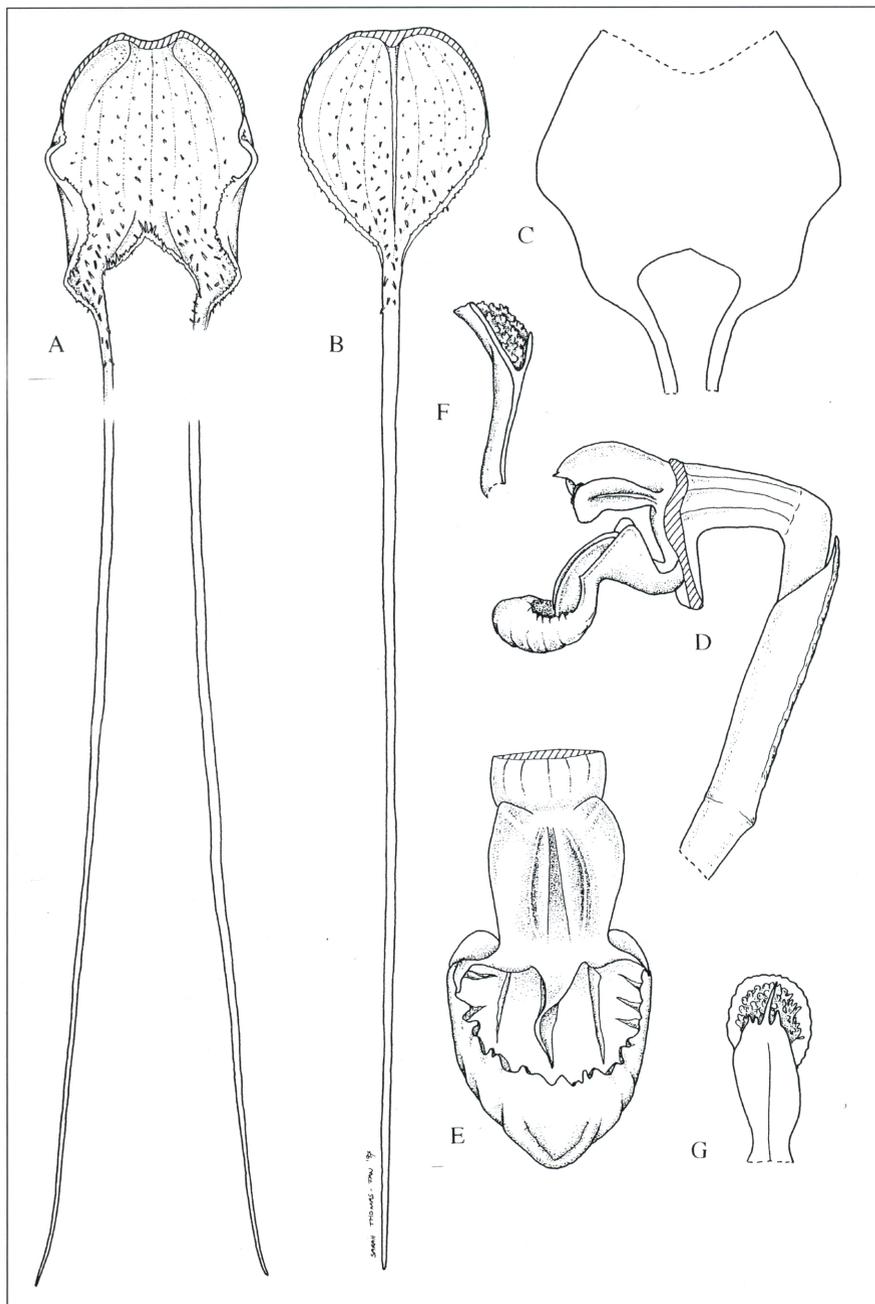


Fig 163: Plate (flower analysis) by Sarah Thomas

- A. Lateral sepals x 1.25
- B. Dorsal sepals x 1.25
- C. Base of lateral sepals in outline when fully spread x 1.25
- D. Column, petals and lip side-view x 2.5
- E. Lip x 5
- F. Petal, side-view x 5
- G. Petal x 5

in deep shade or sometimes epiphytic on lower trunks.

Although occurring within the distribution of *Dracula erythrochaete* (Rchb.f) Luer, this species is distinguished by its deeply connate-campanulate sepaline cup with basal

margins infolded and pronounced midveins. A distinct colony seems to occur in the North-Western cloud forest of Costa Rica.

Etymology: named for Dr. Carlyle A. Luer, whose work on the Pleurothallidinae is unsurpassed. ■