

KEFERSTEINIA EXCENTRICA, A DISTINCTIVE NEW SPECIES FROM COSTA RICA

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RESUMEN

Se describe *Kefersteinia excentrica* de selvas húmedas de Costa Rica. Se parece a *K. wercklei* (Schltr.) Garay, pero las flores son más grandes, la placa detrás del estigma es subcuadrada y el callo es más bajo que el de *K. wercklei*. Es notable por la posición ladeada del labelo.

The genus *Kefersteinia* continues to surprise us with new and unusual species. Indeed, the rate at which distinctive new species appear makes one suspect that many more will be found. The species to be described here is very similar to one that was found in the Fortuna Valley in Chiriquí, Panama, in 1977. When the Panamanian plant first flowered in cultivation, we thought the off-center position of the lip to be abnormal and carefully arranged the flower for photography with lip balanced in the center. When the next flower was equally off-center, we realized that this condition is normal for the species, and the proper epithet for the new species was immediately obvious. Unfortunately, the Panamanian plant soon died and we do not have enough material to be sure that it is the same species as the Costa Rican plant described here.

Kefersteinia excentrica Dressler & Mora-Retana, *sp. nov.*

Epiphytica, erecta; foliis oblanceolatis, acutis; inflorescentiis gracilibus unifloris;

sepalo postico elliptico, acuto; sepalis laterali-bus subfalcatis, apiculatis; labello concavo, excentrico, pandurato, 5-carinato; lobis laterali-bus rotundatis, suberectis; lobo intermedio subflabellato, apiculato, dentato; disco supra basim callo didymo humili ornato.

Epiphytic, without pseudobulbs, rhizome short; leaves 4-5 on a shoot, oblanceolate or narrowly elliptic, keeled, acute or acuminate, 10-15 x 1.1-1.5 cm; flowers solitary, basal, pendent, peduncle 4-5 cm, with membranaceous, triangular bracts; ovary and pedicel 14-17 mm long, ovary 6-keeled; sepals pale green with purple spots, petals, column and lip whitish with purple spots and specks or midlobe of lip red-purple; sepals subequal, entire, dorsal elliptic or lance-elliptic, acute, keeled, concave, 12-13 x 4.8-6 mm; lateral sepals lightly subfalcate, apiculate, 15-17 x 5-6 mm; petals similar to sepals, margins lightly denticulate, 12-14 x 4-5 mm; lip pandurate, 12-13 x 10 mm, jointed to base of column by a narrow claw, lateral lobes rounded, suberect, midlobe subflabellate, apiculate, the margins dentate, blade with 5 low longitudinal keels,

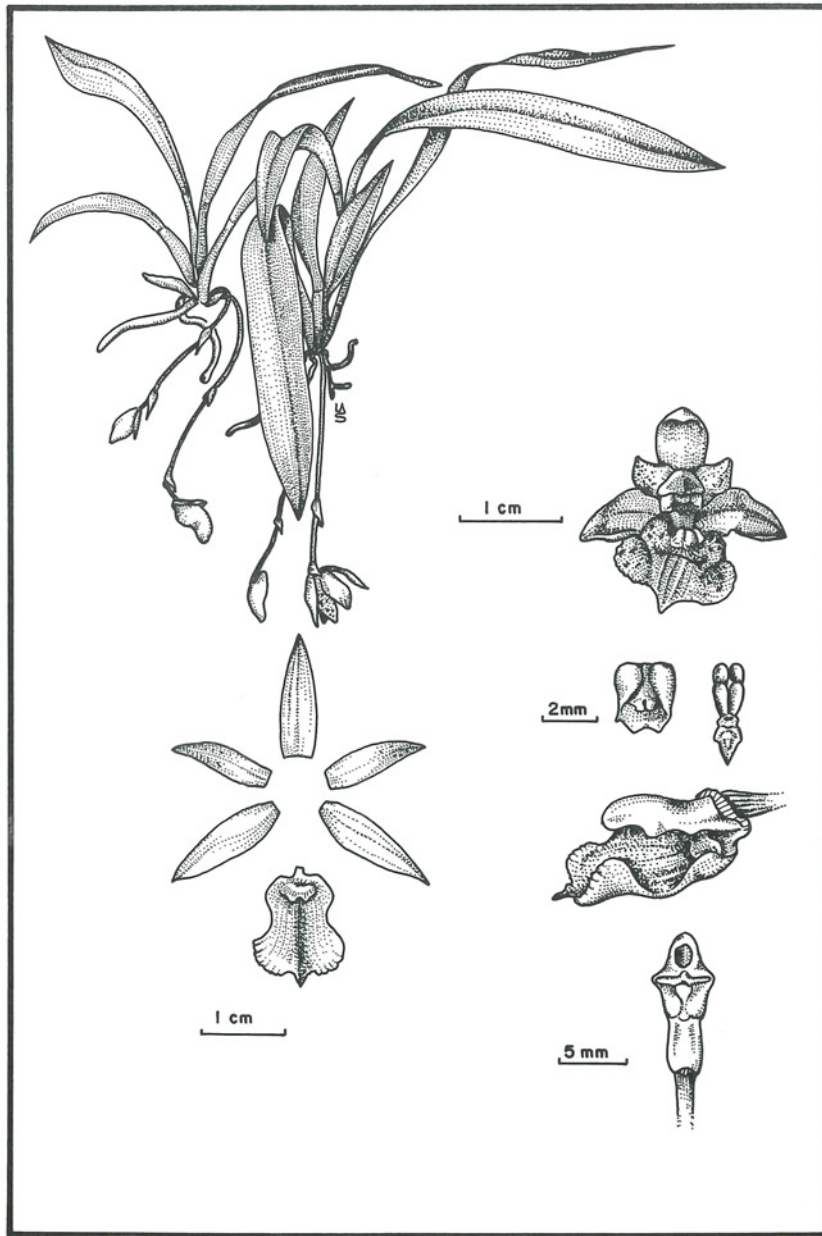


Figure 1. *KEFERSTEINIA EXCENTRICA*, drawn from the type plant.



Kefersteinia parvilabris

basal callus bilobed, lip normally tilted to one side; column 10-11 mm long, 4-4.5 mm wide below stigma; stigma very narrow, column with a subquadrate plate about 3.5 mm long below stigma, with a weak keel on and below plate, forming a low tooth at rear of plate, this scarcely larger than the corners of the plate; anther incumbent, operculate, 2-celled; pollinia 4, in unequal pairs, with viscidium and stipe.

TYPE: COSTA RICA: CARTAGO: La Selva, camino a Taús, en la misma ruta al Refugio de Fauna Silvestre Tapantí, 1300-1400 m; epífita en tronco, flores blanco-verdosas; sépalos con puntos distribuidos en líneas, pétalos y labelo con puntos rojo vino; columna blanca con puntos de color vino; 9 nov. 1984, *R.L. Dressler & D.E. Mora-Retana s.n.* (Holo. USJ, iso. FLAS).

OTHER SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA: ALAJUELA: Cantón de San Ramón, Cataratas de San Ramón, camino a la Reserva Forestal; julio de 1990, *D.E. Mora s.n.* (USJ).

In its distinctly pandurate lip, *K. excentrica* may be compared with *K. parvilabris* Schltr., but the lip of *K. excentrica* is much wider and less fleshy, the callus is distinctly bilobed, rather than oblong and rounded, and the form of the column is quite different. *Kefersteinia excentrica* is more closely related to *K. wercklei*, but the flower is larger, the plate beneath the column is subquadrate rather than rounded, and the callus is much lower in *K. excentrica*. *Zygopetalum umbonatum* of Rchb. f., never properly described, is also related to these species; it is, however, quite distinct, and will be described by Dr. Günther Gerlach, to whom we are very grateful for information and photographs of *K. wercklei*, which we have not seen.

Kefersteinia excentrica has been found in wet premontane forests at elevations between 1200 and 1500 meters. It is usually found on mossy tree trunks from two to five meters above the soil in rather shady sites. Flowering from December to March. ■



Kefersteinia excentrica, photograph of type plant.



Kefersteinia species, Fortuna Valley, Panama. This plant is similar to *K. excentrica* and may be a variant of this species.