New Species and Combinations in Costa Rican Orchids

Robert L. Dressler

Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, U.S.A.; Florida Museum of Natural History; Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Mailing address: 21305 NW 86th Avenue, Micanopy, Florida 32667, U.S.A.

Oncidium imitans Dressler, sp. nov. TYPE: Costa Rica. San José: about 25 km N of San Isidro del General along the Interamerican Highway, 9°20′N, 83°41′W, 1800 m alt., tall wet evergreen forest on steep slopes, on roadside bank on moss-covered log, W. Burger & R. Baker 10075a (holotype, F). Figure 1.

O. obryzatoide similis sed bracteis longissimis tenuibus, sepalis lateralibus connatis, columna sine tabula infrastigmatica vel constrictione basali.

Caespitose, pseudobulbs ovoid, compressed, ca. 4×2 cm; leaves 1 apical, 2 sheathing, ligulate, narrowed basally, ca. 15×1.6 cm; inflorescence ca. 20 cm, simple, of 3-4 flowers; bracts long and narrow, thin, scape bracts $4.5-5 \times 0.4-0.5$ cm, floral bracts to $2.5 \times 0.3-0.5$ cm; sepals greenish yellow, callus white with red-brown spots, lip and petals yellow, with red on margins of isthmus and red spots on column wings; dorsal sepal elliptic, 9 × 2.5–3 mm, lateral sepals lance-elliptic, united for ca. 7 mm, together 9×4 mm; petals oblongoblanceolate, obtuse, 10×4 mm; lip 15×16 mm, base with a 2-mm-wide thickening to callus, lateral lobes oblong, to 2.5×1.5 mm, isthmus subquadrate, 5×4 mm, callus 2.5×4 mm, 7-lobed, midlobe 6×15 –16 mm, shallowly retuse; column 8 mm, trigonous-terete, without tabula infrastigmatica, wings ca. 1.5×3.5 mm.

Novon 7: 120-126, 1997.

I first encountered this species in the Jardín Lankester, where a plant from Santa María de Dota was labeled as O. obryzatoides Kraenzlin. My wife and I photographed the flowers and preserved a couple in liquid, without questioning the identification. When I later studied O. obryzatoides, it was immediately obvious that the plant from Santa María de Dota was distinct. The long bracts, the column without a tabula infrastigmatica, and the partially united lateral sepals all suggest O. warscewiczii Reichenbach f. Oncidium imitans may prove to be a natural hybrid of O. warscewiczii. It has been collected it two localities, in each case identified as O. obryzatoides. Though superficially similar to O. obryzatoides, the column without either tabula infrastigmatica or basal constriction and the connate lateral sepals at once distinguish O. imitans. The epithet, imitans, refers to its superficial similarity to O. obryzatoides.