



***Ornithidium montezumae* Arévalo & Christenson, sp. nov.**

TYPE Colombia. Risaralda: Municipio Pueblo Rico, Vereda Monte Bello, zona de amortiguación del Parque Nacional Natural Tatamá, camino al cerro Montezuma, 1926–2451 m de alt., 05°14'39"N 76°05'54"W – 05°14'59"N 76°06'35"W; bosque húmedo de montaña, creciendo en talud de carretera; 8 de Mayo 2006; R. Arévalo 590 & A. Tapasco (holotype, COL; isotype, ANDES).

Plant terrestrial. Stems monopodial, erect, up to 1 m tall, ovoid in cross section, leafy, and covered by flattened sheaths. Leaves distichous, 5–15 per stem; blade elliptic, 13–15.1 × 2.7–3.2 cm, coriaceous, apex acute and asymmetric, base conduplicate-carinate; sheaths 4.7–5 × 3–2.8 cm. Inflorescences fascicled, axillary scapes, erect, 17 cm long; pedicels 7.5–8.5 cm long, with broadly obovate bract often hidden within the sheath, 3.7 cm long, the floral bracts reduced or absent. Flowers 1–4 per inflorescence, open simultaneously, resupinate, the sepals and petals with adaxial surface yellowish to pale green and abaxial surface brownish, the lip yellow, with sparse purple spots toward the apical half, the column yellowish, the foot with small purple dots. Sepals concave at the base, the dorsal sepal ovate, 2.6 × 0.4 cm, strongly acute; lateral sepals similar to the dorsal, ovate, 2.6 × 0.4 cm, slightly falcate at base, strongly acute. Petals with a purplish-brown medial stripe, margins and apex yellowish, oblong, 1.4 × 0.3 cm, slightly falcate at base, acute, slightly erose. Lip articulated to the apex of the column foot, pandurate, 0.8 ×

0.5 cm, entire to obscurely 3-lobed, lateral margins incurved and parallel to column, apex reflexed, with undulate-crispate margins, shallowly emarginate, with an abaxial subterminal mucro; disc with a basal fleshy callus. Column erect to arcuate, 0.5 cm long, wider near the base, the foot 0.3 cm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral; pollinarium with four widely depressed ovoid pollinia, these subequal and attached to a horseshoe-shaped stipe; anther cap cucullate. Ovary greenish, terete, 3.5 cm long. Fruit not seen. (Figs. 1, 2 and 3)

DISTRIBUTION Known only from two sites in the Cordillera Occidental of the Colombian Andes: Cerro Montezuma, in the municipality of Pueblo Rico, Risaralda, and near Alto de Galápagos, municipality of San José del Palmar, Chocó.

HABITAT Plants of this species have been collected only from roadside slopes, but we expect to find them growing within the forests, between 1,600–2,500 m elevation, as high canopy epiphytes.

ETYMOLOGY Named from the type locality of Cerro Montezuma in the municipality of Pueblo Rico, Risaralda, Colombia. Located in the vicinity of the Tatamá National Park, this mountain is famous for the incredible diversity of Andean birds that can be sighted on its slopes. Montezuma, also known as Moctezuma, was the name of the fifth and ninth Aztec emperors.

PHENOLOGY Plants have been recorded in flower in May, September and November.

OTHER SPECIMENS EXAMINED Colombia. Chocó: Municipio de San José del Palmar, via a Alto de Galápagos, 1,600–1,750 m de alt, terrestre, en talud; 12 de Noviembre 1985; G. Lozano 4941, C.I. Orozco, P. Franco & G. Galeano (COL). Risaralda: Municipio Pueblo Rico, cerro Mon-

[2] *Ornithidium montezumae*, a detail of the habit, as seen growing in its natural habitat.

[3] *Ornithidium montezumae*, flower from the specimen that now serves as the holotype.

tezuma, ca. 2,500 m de alt., 05°14'59"N 76°06'35"W; 31 de Septiembre 2006; R. Arévalo 674, A. Tapasco, H. Tapasco, J. Betancur & O. Laverde (COL, ANDES).

Within the genus *Ornithidium*, *O. montezumae* belongs to the morphological assemblage of species with erect, leafy, monopodial canes (Carnevali and Ramirez 2009). The large flowers, widely open sepals, and articulated labellum with abaxial subterminal mucro of this species, resemble those of *O. multicaule* (Poepp. & Endl.) Rchb.f. and *O. fimbriatilobum* (Carnevali & Romero) M.A. Blanco & Ojeda. However, plants of *O. montezumae* seem to lack visible pseudobulbs (at least in the examined specimens), are distinctly larger than those of *O. multicaule* or *O. fimbriatilobum*, and bear numerous leaves along their erect stem/rhizome (vs. leaves grouped around pseudobulbs). Sequence data from multiple DNA regions (Arévalo, in prep.) have confirmed the placement of this species in the genus *Ornithidium* sensu Blanco et al. (2007).