

Prescottia mucugensis C. O. Azevedo & van den Berg
sp. nov. *P. phleoide* Lindl. et *P. leptostachya* floribus viridescentibus et labello intus glabro similis, illa sepalis lateralibus labellum adpressis aemulans. Ab ambabus rachidi angulari (in *P. phleoide* et *P. leptostachya* rachidi cylindrica) et floribus minoribus differt. Florum dispositio in inflorescentia intermedia inter ambas species (flores congesti in *P. phleoide* et laxi in *P. leptostachya*). Ab *P. leptostachya* sepalis lateralibus labellum adpressis differt (in illa sepalis lateralibus reflexis cum parte dorsali ovarium adpressa). Typus: Brazil, Bahia, Mucugê, Guiné, *Smidt* 796 (holotypus HUEFS).

Terrestrial herb, to 19 – 22 cm tall (in bloom). Roots fasciculate, fleshy. Leaves not seen (without leaves when in bloom). Inflorescences terminal, erect, 10 – 20-flowered; peduncle 14 – 16 cm long; peduncle bracts 3 – 5, 8 – 15 × 2 – 4 mm, apex acute; rachis 3 – 5.5 cm long, angular; floral bracts greenish to purplish

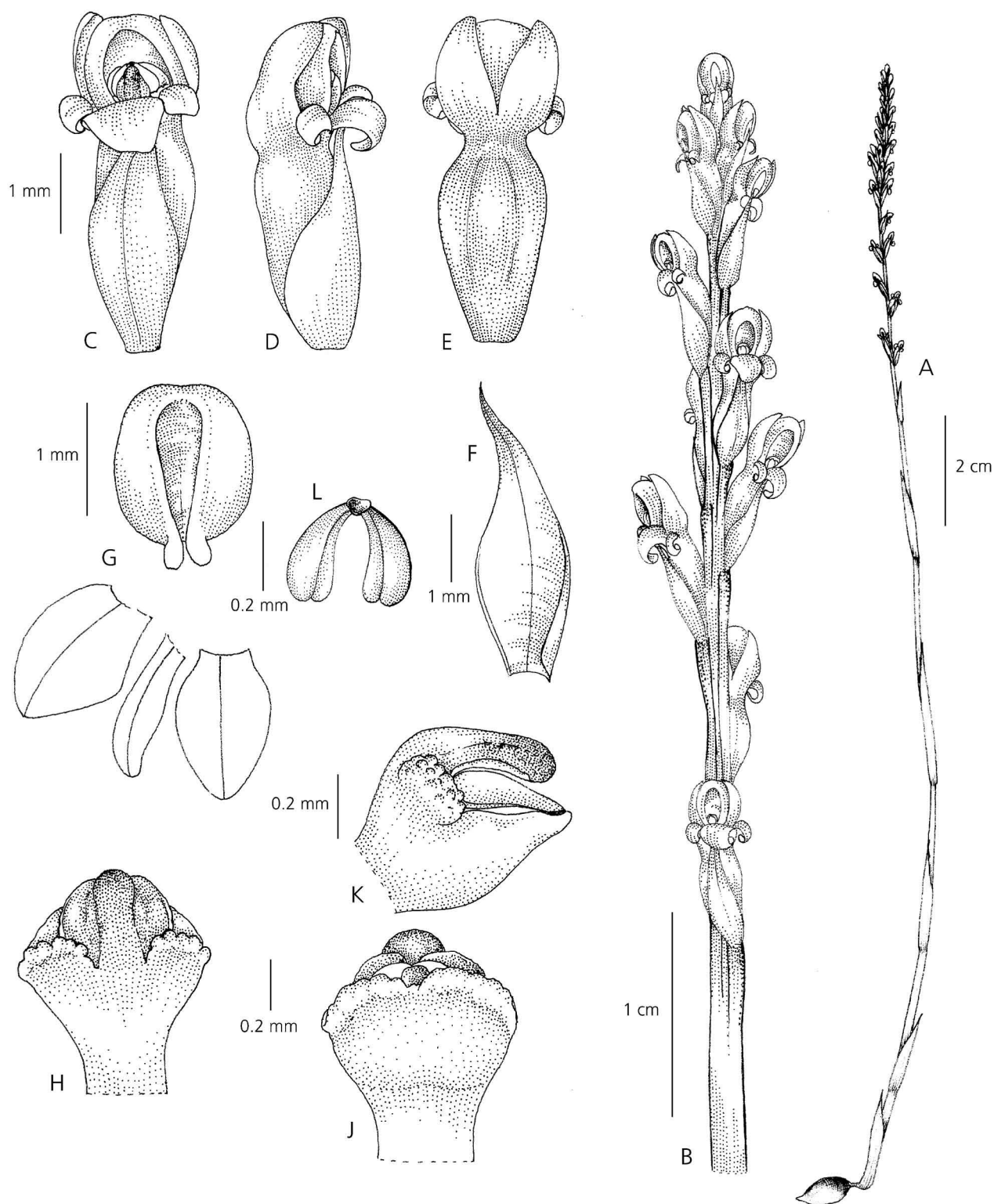


Fig. 1. *Prescottia mucugensis*. A habit; B inflorescence; C – E flower: C front view; D side view; E dorsal view; F floral bract; G perianth parts, clockwise from top: lip, dorsal sepal, petal, lateral sepal; H – K column with pollinarium in place: H dorsal view; J ventral view; K lateral view; L pollinarium. Drawn from fresh material (Azevedo 253). DRAWN BY CARLA TEIXEIRA DE LIMA.

brown, ovate, apex acuminate, $2.4 - 2.7 \times 1 - 1.2$ mm. Flowers non-resupinate; ovary green, $2.2 - 2.4 \times 1.3 - 1.5$ mm; sepals greenish to purplish brown, dorsal sepal reflexed, oblong-lanceolate, apex obtuse, $1.2 - 1.4 \times 0.8 - 1$ mm, lateral sepals basally connate, forming a sepaline cup, adpressed to the lip, ovate-lanceolate, apex obtuse, $1.5 - 1.7 \times 1 - 1.2$ mm; petals greenish to purplish brown, reflexed, linear, $1 - 1.2 \times 0.2 - 0.3$ mm, apex obtuse; labellum connate to sepaline tube, whitish to yellowish, $1.2 - 1.5 \times 1.2 - 1.5$ mm, deeply concave, cucullate over the column, outer surface densely minute-papillose, inner surface glabrous, provided at the base with two fleshy, parallel, fusiform-cylindrical nectaries, which are $0.4 - 0.6$ mm long; column erect, $0.9 - 1 \times 0.4 - 0.5$ mm; provided with two lateral, staminode-like appendages, anther erect, brown, pollinia 4, yellow, soft, slightly compressed, viscidium terminal, disc-like; stigmatic surface flat and entire. Figs 1 and 2A.

DISTRIBUTION. Brazil: Bahia.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. BRAZIL. Bahia: Chapada Diamantina, Municipality of Mucugê, District of Guiné, Serra do Esbarrancado, Nov. 2004, *Smidt* 796 (holotype HUEFS) & Nov. 2005, *Azevedo* 253 (HUEFS).

HABITAT. Rocky places in *campo rupestre* vegetation, summit of Serra do Esbarrancado, among rocks and Velloziaceae; 1000 – 1400 m.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Vulnerable (VU D1 D2). Although *Prescottia mucugensis* is inside a National Park, it is currently known to exist at only a single location, in a small and restricted population.

ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet refers to the type locality, the municipality of Mucugê.

NOTES. Ongoing molecular analyses (*Azevedo et al.* in prep.) based on nuclear and chloroplast DNA sequences show that *Prescottia mucugensis* forms a group with *P.*

phleoides (Fig. 2H) and *P. leptostachya* (Fig. 2G), being sister to the former.

Prescottia leptostachya, like *P. mucugensis*, occurs in the *campos rupestres* of the Chapada Diamantina, whereas *P. phleoides* grows on sandy soils in *campos de altitude* (high altitude grasslands) in Southeastern Brazil, at elevations between 1800 – 2000 m.

Prescottia mucugensis can be distinguished from these taxa by the shape of its inflorescence, floral bracts and flowers. *P. phleoides* has a multiflorous and congested inflorescence, with the rachis 2.5 – 5.5 (7) cm long (Fig. 2H), while in *P. leptostachya* and *P. mucugensis* the inflorescences are sparsely flowered. In *P. leptostachya* the inflorescence is really laxly flowered and the rachis is 8 – 20 (25) cm long (Fig. 2G). *P. mucugensis* can be distinguished from both these species by its angular rachis shape (Figs 1 and 2B), while in the other two it is cylindrical.

Prescottia phleoides differs by possessing long floral bracts, longer than the ovary and flower combined, whereas in *P. mucugensis* the bracts are about the same length as the ovary and flower together. *P. leptostachya* bears shorter flower bracts, about the same length as the ovary (Fig. 2G).

In addition to these differences, the lateral sepals are reflexed (with the distal part adpressed to the ovary) in *Prescottia leptostachya*, whereas in *P. mucugensis* (Fig. 2C – D) and *P. phleoides* (Fig. 2H) the lateral sepals are adpressed to the lip. *P. mucugensis* has small flowers with the lip from 1.2 – 1.5 mm long, while *P. leptostachya* and *P. phleoides* present bigger flowers with the lip between 2.5 – 3.5 mm long, and 2.5 – 4 mm long, respectively. *P. leptostachya* and *P. phleoides* have pale green sepals and petals with a green lip. *P. mucugensis* on the other hand has greenish to purplish brown sepals and petals and a whitish to yellowish lip.



Fig. 2. *Prescottia mucugensis* (Bahia: Azevedo 253). **A** detail of inflorescence; **B** angular rachis; **C** flower, side view; **D** flower, front view; **E** perianth parts, clockwise from top: lip, lateral sepal, petal, dorsal sepal, petal, lateral sepal, column; **F** detail of the column: a: anther. pl: pollinia. stg: stigma. vi: viscidium.