



ENCYCLIA FORTUNAE DRESSLER

A HOMELY LITTLE ENCYCLIA FROM WESTERN PANAMA
ENCYCLIA FORTUNAE DRESSLER

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Sometimes one is especially pleased at finding a new plant because it has attractive flowers or leaves, but in other cases one is pleased for very different motives. Sometimes a new plant belongs to a group that one knows well (and is thus recognized as new immediately) or wants to study, or a plant may form a link between two groups that one already thought to be closely allied. The plant which is to be described here is unlikely to win any awards, but, even so, finding this *Encyclia* was, for me, rather exciting.

When Glenn Pollard and I worked on "The Genus *Encyclia* in Mexico", we gave much thought to the groups within *Encyclia* and their relationships and delimitation. In our concept of *Encyclia* there are two major groups which we may call, for convenience, the *alata* group (subgenus *Encyclia*) and the *fragrans* group (subgenus *Osmophytum* in our classification). These groups are different in a number of features, and one can make a good case for treating the two groups as separate genera. Dr. Brieger and some of his colleagues do consider these to be separate genera, and that is where the problems begin. There are several generic names that have been applied to different parts of the *fragrans* group. The three oldest names are :

Prosthechea Knowles & Westcott, 1838, based on *P. glauca*.

Epithecia Knowles & Westcott, 1839, based on *E. glauca*.

Hormidium Lindley ex Heynhold, 1841, based on *H. uniflorum* (= *H. pygmaeum*).

The oldest name, *Prosthechea*, was changed by its authors because they felt that it was too close to another generic name already in use. Unfortunately, they did not specify the older name, and so I cannot be sure of the legal status of *Prosthechea*. I can find no such name in the indices available to me, but it might have been used for a fungus or an alga. If *Prosthechea* Knowles & Westcott truly duplicates an earlier name, then it is clearly "illegitimate," and the earliest valid name would be *Epithecia*. Dr. Brieger is using the name *Hormidium* for the *fragrans* group, even though it is not the oldest name. He feels that *Prosthechea* and *Epithecia* have remained virtually unused and that *Hormidium* should be conserved (but, to the best of my knowledge, he has not made such a proposal to the International Botanical Congress). *Hormidium* has been used occasionally, but only for a couple of species in the *fragrans* group. Of the names which were used in *Hormidium* before 1960,

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H. pygmaeum (with 2 synonyms) and *H. pseudopygmaeum* are members of the *fragrans* group. Five of the other six names were applied to members of *Epidendrum* or other genera, and the status of the sixth, *Hormidium hiorami*, is unclear (though the description suggests an *Epidendrum*). Thus, if the *fragrans* group includes fifty species, the use of *Epithecia* or *Prosthechea* would require 49 new combinations, while the use of *Hormidium* would require only 48! I do not consider this is a very compelling reason for using *Hormidium* instead of the oldest generic name. In any case, the matter should be settled by a proposal to the International Botanical Congress before either name is given extensive use.

My own feeling is that the *fragrans* group and the *alata* group are more closely related to each other than to other groups, and I am quite satisfied with treating them as subgenera of *Encyclia*. One can make a good case for dividing *Encyclia* (as I see it) into three or more genera, but Brieger's treatment in the new edition of *Die Orchideen* is very strange. His concept of *Encyclia* does not include any extraneous elements, but in *Hormidium* he includes *Nidema boothii*, which is close to *Scaphyglottis* and has nothing to do with the *fragrans* group, and he includes *Encyclia cyanocolumna* and its allies. These tiny plants may be slight misfits in the *alata* group, but they are totally out of place in the *fragrans* group.

Well, in any case, the name *Hormidium* is used in *Die Orchideen*, even though valid names in *Hormidium* have been published for very few species. Most people are just getting used to the idea that these species don't belong in *Epidendrum*, and I fear that there will be confusion for years to come. At this point, all I can do is try to explain the background for the confusion. The reader will by now wonder what all this has to do with an insignificant new species from western Panama, and it is simply this. The oldest generic names for the *fragrans* group are based on *Prosthechea/Epithecia/Encyclia glauca* (or *Epidendrum limbatum*), which is a rather peculiar species of southern Mexico and Guatemala to El Salvador. This new species is closely related to --- *glauca* and forms an additional link between --- *glauca* and other members of the *fragrans* group.

The upper Rio Chiriquí forms a very wet valley surrounded by high peaks, and the entire area is very rich in orchid species. Preliminary work has revealed about 160 orchid species in the valley, and several of these are new to science. Fortunately, the Instituto de Recursos Hidráulicos y Electrificación is planning to construct a dam north of Cerro Fortuna, and the entire valley will be protected to preserve the watershed. This new species is named *Encyclia fortunae* for the site, Cerro Fortuna, and for the Fortuna hydroelectric project.

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Encyclia fortunae Dressler, sp. nov.

E. pseudobulbis orbicularis, complanatis, 1-2- phyllis, foliis ellipticis glaucis, racemo terminale, sepalis lanceolatis, petalis oblanceolatis, labelli subliberi, trilobi, lobis lateralibus orbicularis, intermedio subreniformis, columna aptera.

Entire plant whitish-glaucous, pendant; pseudobulbs clustered, ovate to suborbicular, strongly flattened, ca. 2 cm. long, 1.2-1.6 cm. wide, the youngest pseudobulb with conduplicate, narrowly triangular sheaths 1,5-3 cm. long, 6-12 mm. wide; leaves 1 or usually 2, elliptic or lance-elliptic, acute, 9-10.5 cm. long, 1.4-2.3 cm. wide; inflorescence simple, 7-10 cm. long, with 6-8 flowers, inflorescence bracts ovate to narrowly triangular, 4-7 mm. long; floral bracts narrowly triangular, 4.5-5 mm. long; ovary and pedicel ca. 6 mm. long, ovary strongly triquetrous, sepals pale green, ligulate-lanceolate, acute, ca. 6 mm. long, the laterals 2.7-2.8 mm. wide, the dorsal ca. 2.3 mm. wide; petals pale green, oblanceolate, obtuse or broadly acute, ca. 5.1 mm. long and 2 mm. wide; lip cream, ca. 5.3 mm. long, the claw ca. 2.3 mm. wide, 3-lobed, lateral lobes orbicular, ca. 1 mm. long and wide, erect, mid-lobe pale green, subreniform, ca. 1.5 mm. long and 2 mm. long and 2 mm. wide, callus fleshy, between lateral lobes, faintly 3-toothed; column ca. 4 mm. long, including teeth, subtriquetrous in section, concave beneath, mid-tooth subquadrate, ca. 1 mm. long and wide, much surpassing the rounded lateral teeth; anther oblong-reniform, ca. 1.4 mm. wide; pollinia 4, ovoid, flattened, ca. 0.6 mm. long, attached to caudicles.

HOLOTYPE: PANAMA; prov. Chiriquí, near Camp Hornito, Fortuna dam site, 82°13'W, 8°44'N, elev. 1000-1400 m.; 27 September 1976; plants grey-green, pendant, sepals and petals pale leaf green, faintly dusky within, lip cream, mid-lobe green, column green, tinged violet above near base, teeth with violet specks and stains, Robert L. Dressler 5520 (US, isotype PMA).

Encyclia fortunae is most closely related to *E. glauca*, from which it may be distinguished by even smaller flowers and by the mid-lobe of the lip, which does not fold under as does that of *E. glauca*. *Encyclia campylostalix* also occurs in western Panama, but that species has much larger flowers and proportionately longer column and lip. In the unlikely event that anyone ever wishes to cultivate *E. fortunae*, cool, moist conditions are indicated by its habitat.

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