

MESOAMERICAN ORCHID STUDIES III: A NEW SARCOGLOTTIS¹

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Sarcoglottis*, *Sarcoglottis neglecta* E. A. Christenson, is described from Costa Rica and Panama. A key to *Sarcoglottis* in Panama is presented.

THE GENUS *Sarcoglottis* comprises approximately 40 species in the Neotropics. *Sarcoglottis*, typically with rosulate plants bearing upright spikes of white, yellow, or green flowers, are among the larger-flowered segregates previously maintained in a broadly defined *Spiranthes* (Garay, 1980). Most similar to *Pelexia*, *Sarcoglottis* are readily separable by their lacking an external spur.

In Costa Rica and Panama, several taxa have been erroneously maintained under the name *Sarcoglottis acaulis* (J. E. Sm.) Schltr., a taxon no longer considered to occur in Mesoamerica (Christenson, 1991). After reexamining herbarium material used by previous workers, most of the Costa Rican specimens of "*S. acaulis*" are reidentified as *S. hunteriana* Schltr. and *S. valida* Ames, while most of the Panamanian specimens are reidentified as *S. hunteriana* Schltr. Among the specimens examined is a new species, *S. neglecta* E. A. Christenson, described here.

***Sarcoglottis neglecta* E. A. Christenson, sp. nov.**

Herbae terrestres, florentibus foliis carentibus. Radices carnosae, fasciculatae. Folia rosulata. Laminae ellipticae, acutae, decurrentes, 8-13 cm longae, 3.2-5.2 cm latae. Petioli 3-5 cm longi. Inflorescentiae terminales, spicatae, 2-9 floribus. Pedunculi teretes, 12-24 cm longi. Bractee vaginantes, lineares-triangulares, 3-3.5 cm longae. Bractee florales lineares-subulatae, usque ad 3 cm longae. Sepala dorsalia lanceolata, 22 mm longa, 3 mm lata, puberula postice. Sepala lateralia subfalcata, acuta, 20 mm longa, 4 mm lata, puberula postice. Petala lanceolata, 20 mm longa, 2.5 mm lata, conniventes a sepalis dorsalibus. Labella obovata, 2.5 mm lata basi, a laterilobis 7 mm lata, postice puberula, basi auriculata. Auriculae 3 mm longae, 0.5 mm latae. Medilobi transverse ovati, recurvi, apiculati, 7 mm longi, 8 mm lati. Calli bilobi. Ovaria 2.6-3.0 cm longa, puberula.

Terrestrial herbs, flowering without leaves. **Roots** fleshy, fasciculate. **Leaves** rosulate. Leaf blades elliptic, acute, decurrent, 8-13 cm long, 3.2-5.2 cm wide. Petiole 3-5 cm long. **Inflorescences** terminal, spicate, 2-9-flowered. Peduncle terete, 12-24 cm long. Bracts sheathing, linear-triangular, 3-3.5 cm long. Floral bracts linear-subulate, up to 3 cm long. **Dorsal sepals** lanceolate, 22 mm long, 3 mm wide, reverse puberulent. **Lateral sepals** subfalcate, acute,

20 mm long, 4 mm wide, reverse puberulent. **Petals** lanceolate, 20 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connivent to dorsal sepal. **Labella** obovate, 2.5 mm at base, 7 mm broad at sidelobes, abaxial surface puberulent towards base, auriculate. Auricles 3 mm long, 0.5 mm wide. Midlobe transversely ovate, recurved, apiculate, 7 mm long, 8 mm wide. Calli bilobed. **Ovaries** 2.6-3.0 cm long, puberulent.

HOLOTYPE: PANAMA, San Juan, upper reaches of Chagres River, sea level, flowers green, Feb. 1924, C. W. Powell 388, AMES (28155); **Isotypes:** AMES (28154), MO.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA, Prov. San Jose, vic. El General, 1040 m, Feb. 1936, A. F. Skutch 2621, AMES (53982). PANAMA, Mata Redonda, sea level, March 1924, C. W. Powell 391, AMES (28153); San Juan, sea level, March 1924, C. W. Powell 3512, AMES, BM, MO; Mata Redonda, sea level, March 1924, C. W. Powell 3525, AMES (31830, p.p.).

No leaves are present on the Panamanian specimens. The Costa Rican specimen, however, has mature leaves present on one plant and a rosette emerging on a second plant. Leaf measurements in the above description are taken from the Costa Rican specimen.

The flowers of *S. neglecta* were illustrated as *S. acaulis* (J. E. Sm.) Schltr. in Dressler (1981).

KEY TO SARCOGLOTTIS IN PANAMA

1. Leaves produced in basal rosette, usually absent during flowering.
 2. Lateral sepals reflexed by bending, flowers relatively straight in bud; lateral sepals 2 cm long, 4 mm wide.....*S. neglecta*.
 2. Lateral sepals strongly falcate, flowers curved in bud; lateral sepals more than 3 cm long, 5 mm wide; inflorescence congested.....*S. hunteriana*.
1. Leaves produced along stem, usually present during flowering; lateral sepals less than 2 cm long, 4-4.5 mm wide.....*S. woodsonii*.

LITERATURE CITED

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