

A NEW SIEVEKINGIA WITH AN OLD NAME

CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH

SIEVEKINGIA IS ONE of the many small orchid genera of the American tropics having a leaf-bearing pseudobulb, a single relatively large plicate leaf and lateral racemes of large to small flowers. In general, it is rather similar to a small-flowered Stanhopea. The genus extends from Costa Rica to British Guiana, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

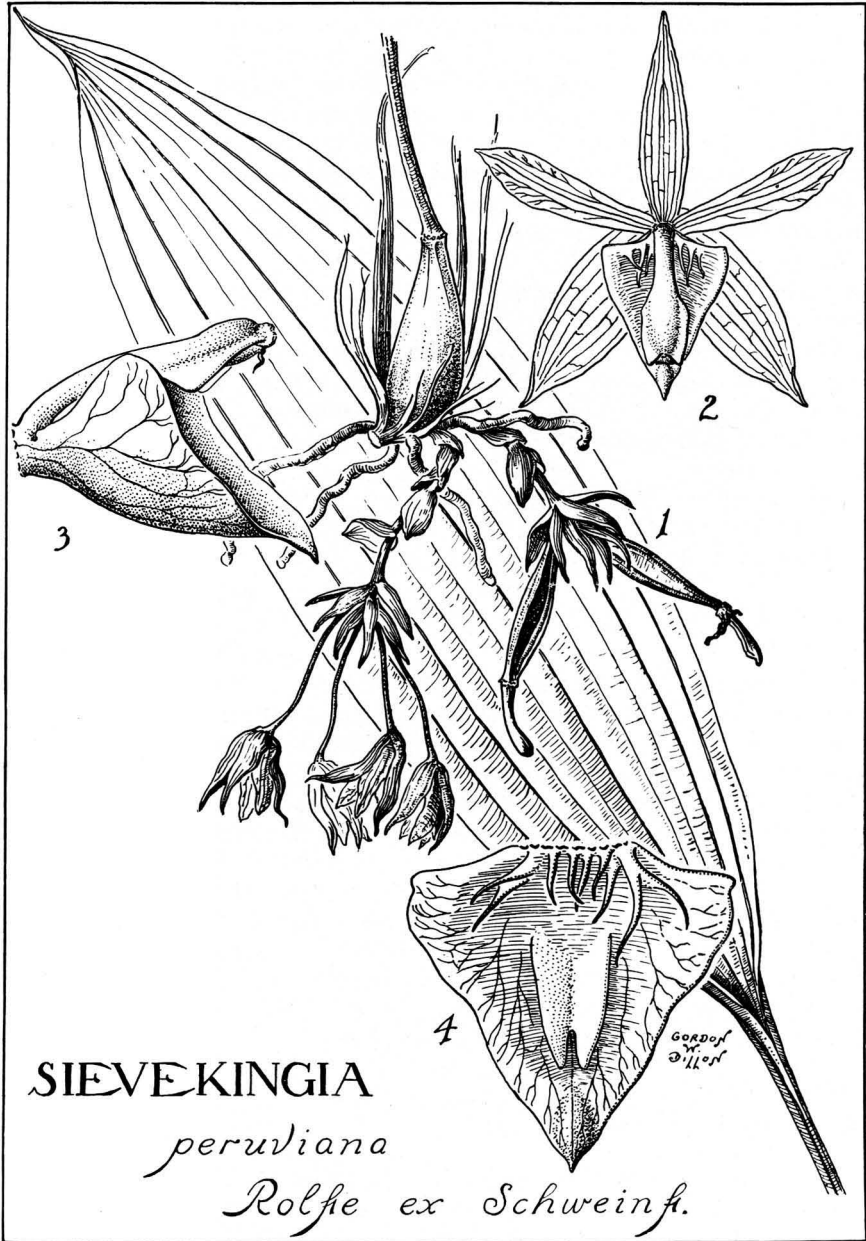
The present species, the only one yet recorded from Peru, has a somewhat interesting history dating from October, 1911.

Sievekingia peruviana Rolfe ex C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.

Herba mediocris, pseudobulbosa, epiphytica ut videtur. Pseudobulbus anguste ovoideus, unifolius. Folium erectum, longe petiolatum; lamina elliptica vel oblongo-elliptica, acuta, basi cuneata, plicata. Scapi laterales, basales, penduli, breves, apice racemo brevi congesto plurifloro terminati. Flores satis parvi, membranacei, cum ovario pedicellato longo gracili. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-lanceolatum, breviter acuminatum. Sepala lateralia elliptico-lanceolata, multo latiora. Petala lineari-oblonga vel anguste oblanceolato-oblonga, acuta, leviter obliqua. Labellum simplex, sessile, concavum, ovato-triangulare, valde acutum, basi subtruncatum cum angulis exterioribus rotundatis et leviter retusis; discus basi dentibus lineari-triangulis pluribus et medio callo magno adnato apice bidentato ornatus. Columna conspicua, arcuata, alis duabus semirhomboidis apice instructa.

Plant medium-sized, apparently epiphytic. Roots fibrous, stout, glabrous. Pseudobulbs narrowly ovoid, up to 3.5 cm. high, unifoliate at the apex, surrounded and surpassed by the fibres of the sheaths. Leaf erect, long-petioled; lamina elliptic to oblong-elliptic, acute, broadly cuneate at base, 12–21 cm. long, 4 — nearly 6 cm. wide, subcoriaceous, plicate; petiole slender, channelled, about 6 cm. or less long. Scapes lateral, pendant from the base of the pseudobulb, about 4.5 cm. or less long; peduncle with several (up to 5) loose broadly ovate, concave sheaths; raceme congested, abbreviated, several-flowered. Floral bracts oblong-lanceolate, acute, concave, lepidote, up to 11.5 mm. long. Flowers rather small, campanulate, membranaceous, on a slender pedicellate ovary which is about 2.6 cm. or less long. Sepals lepidote without. Dorsal sepal oblong-lanceolate, short-acuminate with a complicate apex, about 2 cm. long and 4.7 mm. wide. Lateral sepals elliptic-lanceolate, slightly oblique, about 1.8 cm. long and 6.4 mm. wide. Petals linear-oblong or narrowly oblanceolate-oblong, acute, lightly oblique, about 1.8 cm. long, up to 4.2 mm. wide. Lip simple, sessile, concave, ovate-triangular, sharply acute, subtruncate at base with rounded lightly retuse basal angles, about 1.4 cm. long and almost equally broad at the base when expanded; disc with a row of about 8 slender linear-triangular teeth at base (the outermost being shorter and mostly adnate) and with a large adnate, flat, triangular-ovate plate which is sharply bidentate at the free apical part. Column prominent, slightly arcuate, with a pair of semirhomboid wings above, abruptly truncate at the tip, about 1.17 cm. long.

The combination, *Sievekingia peruviana*, as "*Sievekingia peruviana* (Rolfe)," appeared entirely without description in ORCHID REVIEW 19(1911)310 where it was included in a list of the exhibit of Messrs. Sander & Sons, St. Albans. It was therefore a *nomen nudum*.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE

FIGURE 1, habit, $\times 4/5$. FIG. 2, flower, expanded, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. FIG. 3, column and lip from side, $\times 3$. FIG. 4, lip, spread out, $\times 3$.

Being unable to find any later description, I wrote to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England. There the orchidologist, Mr. Summerhayes, reported as follows: "As far as I can ascertain *Sievekingia peruviana* Rolfe has never been described. There is no material here corresponding with the original notice in Orch. Rev. 19(1911)310 but only several flowers from a plant in cultivation at Kew four years later. There are no vegetative parts or information about them."

With this letter was enclosed one of the flowers referred to, and this flower, called "*Sievekingia peruviana* Rolfe," appears to be an exact counterpart of the flowers of the Schunke specimens described above. Accordingly, I have accepted the epithet "peruviana" in describing this species.

It is apparently closely allied to the Bolivian *Sievekingia Trollii* Mansf., but differs in having distinctly larger flowers and blunt (not acuminate-produced) basal angles of the lip.

JUNÍN: Chanchamayo Valley, at 1200 meters altitude, "Nov. 1924-1927," *Carlos Schunke* 554. (TYPE in Herb. Ames, No. 61895; ISOTYPE in Herb. Field Museum, No. 571612); same locality, at 1500 meters altitude, January 1930, *Schunke* 1235. — *Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.*