

Teuscheria horichiana, a New Orchid from Costa Rica

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The genus *Teuscheria* was set up by Garay (1958) to accommodate a new orchid species from the Ecuadorian Andes, *Teuscheria cornucopia*. This species, being the only one known to belong to the genus at the time of description, is to be considered the type species. About a year later, Garay (1959) added *Teuscheria pickiana*, a species originally described as *Bifrenaria pickiana* by Schlechter (1912) and considered to belong to the genus *Xylobium* by L. O. Williams (1955) as well as a third species, *Teuscheria venezuelana* to the genus.

Some years later, another species, originally described as *Bifrenaria wagneri* by H. G. Reichenbach (1854), was transferred to the genus *Teuscheria* as *Teuscheria wagneri* and *Teuscheria venezuelana* was found to be synonymous to it (Garay 1967).

A fourth species discovered in Colombia by Gilberto Escobar was described by Garay (1970) as *Teuscheria elegans*, and Robert Dressler (1972) brought the species count up to five by adding *Teuscheria dodsonii*. The present status of the genus was attained by the addition of *Teuscheria integrilabia*, by Dodson (1978).

Back in 1980, one of us (R. Jenny) was informed by Clarence Horich that he had found an unknown *Teuscheria* in Costa Rica. Upon request, Horich sent a few bulbs which were duly attached to a piece of *Dicksonia* and kept in the greenhouse. A few years later, the specimen was "rediscovered" by Bob Dressler upon a visit to Switzerland who agreed with it being a species hitherto undescribed.

In 1986, during a visit to Costa Rica, Rudolf Jenny, on a collecting trip with Clarence Horich to the Serapiqui area, purchased one more specimen of the undescribed *Teuscheria* from a local collector and collected a smaller specimen of the same kind along the Río Sarapiquí. This smaller plant flowered a few months after his return to Bern, and color slides of the flower and a drawing of the plant were sent to Dressler for verification. The species was illustrated in a book about the orchids of Costa Rica (Rodriguez, et al., 1986) as *Teuscheria sp.*

Although Garay, in his original diagnosis of the genus (Garay 1958), mentioned a resupinated flower, this was certainly due to the fact that at that time he considered *Teuscheria* to be monospecific. Whereas *Teuscheria cornucopia*, *Teuscheria pickiana* and *Teuscheria wagneri* have resupinated flowers, *Teuscheria dodsonii*, *Teuscheria elegans* and *Teuscheria integrilabia*, as well as the new species — *Teuscheria horichiana* — have not. All other floral

characteristics and all vegetative characteristics, however, indicate these species to belong to the genus *Teuscheria* in spite of this anatomical difference.

Just as *Teuscheria dodsonii*, this new species has a three-lobed lip faintly curled at the apex. However, the three parallel longitudinal ribs from the base to the center of the labellum clearly distinguish this new species from *Teuscheria dodsonii*, and it can readily be distinguished from any other orchid species described.

Teuscheria horichiana Jenny & Braem, *spec. nov.*

Epiphytica, caespitosa, usque ad 35 cm. alta; rhizomata valde abbreviata; radicibus filiformibus, flexuosis, glabris; pseudobulbis conico-ovoideis, apice monophyllis: foliis plicatis, lanceolato-ellipticis, acutis, basin in petiolum attenuatis, usque ad 35 cm. longis, 3.5 cm. latis; pedunculo unifloro, erecto, tenui; floribus non resupinatus, conspicuis, sepalis petalisque olivaceis, labello albido, lobi terminali in parte purpureo; sepalis acutis, dorsali oblongo-obovato, lateralibus ovato-oblongis, pedi columnae longe producto tota basi adnatis; petalis oblongo-oblancoolatis, acutis; labello unguiculato, trilobato, lobis subaequalis, acutis, margine crenatis, lobo terminali convexo, papillosa, callo trilamellato, columna breviuscula, albida; pollinia 4.

Teuscheria horichiana is an herbaceous epiphyte, tufted growing and attaining an overall height of about 35 cm. The plants have a very short rhizome. The roots are thread-like, flexible, glabrous. The pseudobulbs are conical, more or less ovate, bearing one single apical leaf. The vegetative leaves are elliptic-lanceolate, acute, with a terete petiole at the base. The leaves are up to 35 cm. long and up to about 3.5 cm. wide. The erect, slender peduncle bears one single, non-resupinate, showy flower of which the sepal and the lateral petals are colored olive-green. The labellum is white, the apical lobe partly suffused with purple. The sepals are acute, the dorsal one broad-ovate, the lateral ones oblong-ovate. The base of the column foot is completely united with the base of the labellum. The lateral petals are oblong-oblancoolate, acute. The labellum is clawed, trilobed with nearly equal lobes, acute, crenate at the margins. The apical lobe is convex, papillose with a three-lamellate crest. The column is short, white; there are four pollinia.

Holotype: Conservatoire du Jardin Botanique, Chambesey, Geneva (CH) deposited under Nr. JE-60, 10.10.86. Costa Rica, Rainforest, Cordillera Central near Río Silencio, below La Balsa, 850 m. above sea level, col. Horich *sine numero, ex cult.* R. Jenny.



Teuscheria horichiana Jenny x Braem.



Teuscheria horichiana Jenny x Braem.



Teuscheria pickiana Garay.

Key to the Species of *Teuscheria*

1. Flowers resupinate
 2. Pseudobulbs clustered; lobes of the labellum subequal 3
 - 2a. Pseudobulbs not clustered; midlobe of labellum at least twice the length of the lateral lobes
. *Teuscheria pickiana*
 3. Lateral petals oblanceolate; margins of the labellum crenate *Teuscheria wagneri*
 - 3a. Lateral petals linear-oblong; margins of the labellum entire *Teuscheria cornucopia*
- 1a. Flowers non-resupinate
 4. Labellum three-lobate 5
 - 4a. Labellum entire *Teuscheria integrilabia*
 5. Flowers mainly rose *Teuscheria elegans*
 - 5a. Flowers not mainly rose 6
 6. Flower parts acute; main lobe of labellum with a three-lamellate crest; flowers mainly olive-green *Teuscheria horichiana*
 - 6a. Flower parts obtuse; crest on main lobe of labellum not three-lamellate; flowers not mainly colored olive-green *Teuscheria dodsoni*

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