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Orthographic correction *Epidendrum ramirezsanta* Sauleda and Uribe-Velez to *Epidendrum ramirez-santae* Sauleda and Uribe-Velez.

A New Species of Reed-stemmed *Epidendrum* L. (Orchidaceae) from La Habana, Valle del Cauca, Colombia.

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Abstract

A new species of reed-stemmed *Epidendrum* L. (Orchidaceae) is described for Colombia.

The reed-stemmed epidendrums are one of the most common orchids in Colombia. Almost any roadside (barranco) that has not been disturbed recently will have epidendrums growing on them. The higher one goes in elevation the more species are found. There has been much confusion as to the correct names. Almost any species that cannot be easily identified is called ‘secundum’. The problem arises from a lack of field studies to determine the geographical limits and the range of morphological variation of the different populations. Hágsater (2015) states: “This large group of colorful species have gone under the name of *Epidendrum secundum* Jacq., a species endemic to the lesser Antilles, and possibly the lowlands north of the Guyana Shield; it has lilac-pink flowers, with a white callus. Colors are useful in separating species, but care must be taken, as there are numerous hybrid populations throughout South America, especially at medium to higher elevations, with a whole range of colors locally where the hybrids occur.”

In the area of La Habana, Valle del Cauca, starting at 1750 m occurs a species that is common throughout the Valle del Cauca, *Epidendrum melinanthum* Schltr. It is common on the road just passed La Habana winding up the mountain along the river. At 2000 m it is sympatric with another distinct *Epidendrum* that varies from light orange to deep red. Above 2000 m it is replaced with the other distinct *Epidendrum*. The most distinctive feature of this higher elevation species is that the apex of the labellum lacks fimbriation. However, an introgression hybrid may occur at the 2000 m level. This *Epidendrum* was found from 2000 m up to 2300 m.

Originally a single sterile plant that was assumed to be *E. melinanthum* was found at 2000 m in 2016. Upon flowering the lack of fimbriation at the apex of the labellum was an unusual feature that clearly distinguished it from *E. melianthum*. However, since only one plant was observed, the question was if it was an aberrant orange form of *E. melianthum*. After a visit to the area again in early 2018 it was found that, as the population of *E. melianthum* ended at about 2000 m the unusual *Epidendrum* began to appear. The most common color form was a rich orange but deep red forms and light orange to yellow-orange forms also are found.

A perusal of the extensive literature on epidendrums authored primarily by Eric Hágsater did not lead to its identification. After sending an email with a picture to Eric Hágsater he was kind enough to report that it was unknown to him. He also had the doubt that it may have been just an aberrant form. However, upon returning to the type locality several plants were found and the determination was made that it was a viable distinct population.

For the above reasons the population from La Habana, Valle del Cauca, Colombia is here described as a new species.

Epidendrum ramirez-santae Sauleda and Uribe-Velez, sp. nov.

Holotype: Colombia, Valle del Cauca, La Habana. Plant collected along roadside at 2000 m., Collector unknown, s. n., January 2016, (HPUJ # 29.132).

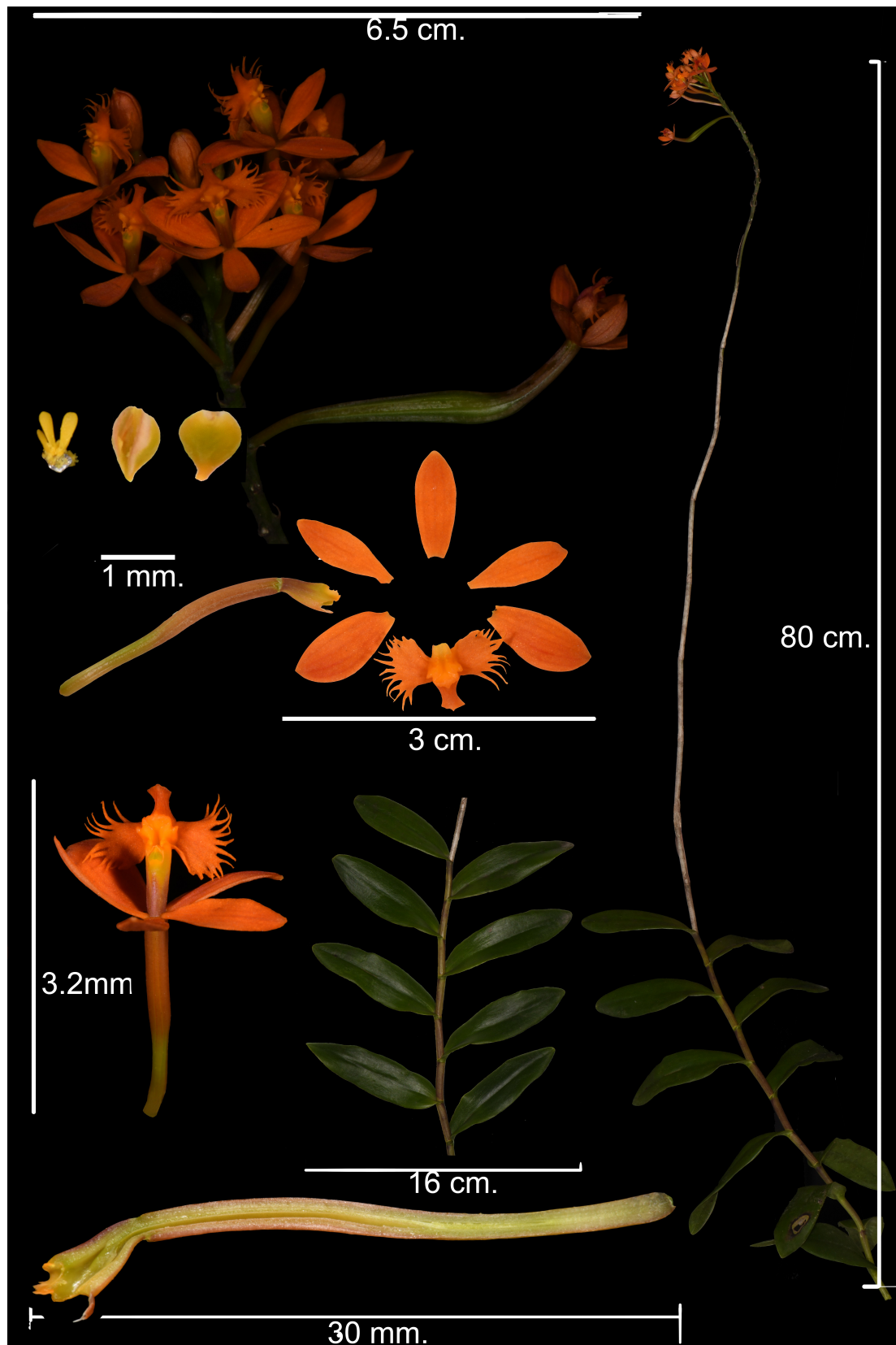
This species is named for Carlos Ramirez Santa a resident of La Habana that first made us aware of this species.

Diagnosis

Epidendrum ramirez-santae Sauleda and Uribe-Velez is similar to *Epidendrum melinanthum* Schltr. with which it is sympatric at an elevation of 2000 m. *Epidendrum ramirez-santae* only occurs above 2000 m. *Epidendrum ramirez-santae* varies in color from yellow-orange to red, *E. melinanthum* is always bright yellow. The mid lobe of *E. ramirez-santae* is truncate to 3-dentate, the mid lobe of *E. melinanthum* is T shaped, bifid, into two square, somewhat divergent lobes terminally fimbriated.

Description

Plants caespitose terrestrials, along roadsides, to 185 cm tall. Roots numerous, basal, velamentous. Stems simple, erect, cane-like, 125 cm tall, to 8 mm diam. Leaves numerous, distributed along the stem, diminishing in size towards the apex; with tubular sheaths, basally scarious, to 6 cm long, 2.6 cm wide; blades oblanceolate to elliptic, acute, coriaceous, smooth, entire, 24 cm long, 6 cm wide. Inflorescence terminal, erect, to 50 cm long; peduncle elongate, to 40 cm long, covered by tubular, scarious bracts to 6 cm long; racemes subcorymbose, 25 to 35-flowered; floral bracts smaller than the ovary, triangular, acuminate to acute, to 15 mm long, 2 mm wide. Flowers successive, non-resupinate, yellow-orange to red; ovary pedicellate, slender, terete, smooth, to 3.0 cm long; dorsal sepal elliptic to obovate, acute, to 15 mm long, 5 mm wide, lateral sepals slightly oblique, obovate, acute, to 15 mm long, 6 mm wide; petals oblanceolate, subacute, 14 mm long, 5 mm wide; labellum fused to the column, 3-lobed, 15 mm wide, 13 mm long, callus complex, conspicuous, fleshy, variable, lateral lobes suborbicular, irregularly dentate-laciniate, mid lobe rectangular, to truncate to apiculate 3-dentate, non-laciniate; column straight, terete, clavate, to 5 mm long, clinandrium hood margin minutely fimbriated; anther ovoid, 4-celled. Capsule ellipsoid-cylindrical, to 4 cm long, 1.5 cm thick.



Epidendrum ramirez-santae Saulea and Uribe-Velez.



Epidendrum ramirez-santae Sauleda and Uribe-Velez variation in color.



Epidendrum ramirez-santae Saulea and Uribe-Velez column and labellum.



Epidendrum ramirez-santae Saulea and Uribe-Velez variation in callosity.



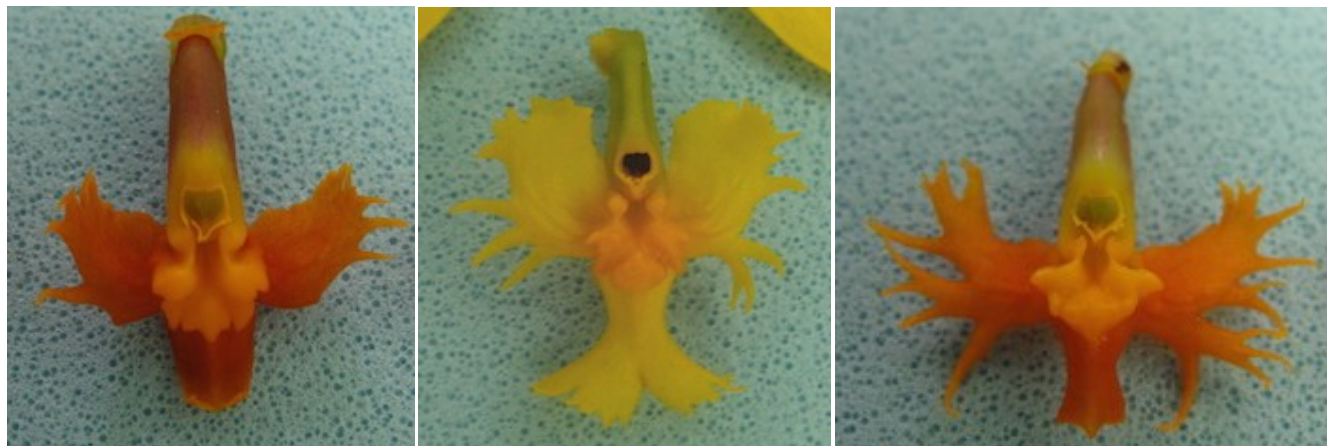
Epidendrum ramirez-santae Saulea and Uribe-Velez variation in labellum.



Epidendrum ramirez-santae Saulea and Uribe-Velez variation in labellum.



Epidendrum melinanthum Schltr. from La Habana, Valle del Cauca.



Comparison of labella of *Epidendrum ramirez-santae* Saulea and Uribe-Velez and *Epidendrum melinanthum* Schltr. demonstrating possible introgression.



Type locality of *Epidendrum ramirez-santae* Saulea and Uribe-Velez west of La Habana, Valle del Cauca, Colombia.

Acknowledgements

We wish to give a special thank you to Eric Hágsater for his comments. We are very fortunate to have a person with the extensive knowledge of the epidendrums to consult that is so generous with his knowledge.

Literature Cited

Hágsater, E. 2015. Species New & Old in Epidendrum. Icones Orchidacearum, Fascicle 15(1). The Genus Epidendrum, Part 11.