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## The Holotype of *Encyclia triangulifera* (Rchb. f) Acuña

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**ABSTRACT:** Reichenbach designated specimen no. 3328 of Charles Wright as the type for *Epidendrum trianguliferum* Rchb. f and *Epidendrum bipapularis* Rchb. f. Many copies of this specimen have been distributed which have been designated as isotypes. However, there is confusion about the current location of the holotype, the nature of this species and its geographic distribution. This paper identifies the location of the holotype of *E. triangulifera* and discusses the taxonomic history of this species.

Reichenbach described *Epidendrum trianguliferum* in 1865 (Flora 48: 277), from a specimen collected by Charles Wright in Cuba. The description was included in an article about a collection of specimens that had been acquired by Sir William Hooker. In the introduction to the article Reichenbach states that he had studied the collection during a stay at Kew. No reference is made about the location where the plants were collected.

*Encyclia triangulifera* is considered part of a group of enigmatic species of Cuban encyclias. Specimens are abundantly found in the herbaria of Europe and the US. However, no illustration of this species has been published. According to Reichenbach the herbarium specimen (Wright, 3328) used for the description contained material from two different species of encyclia. No reference to the location of the holotype is found in any publication.

Reichenbach named the other plant on the original specimen *Epidendrum bipapularis*. Ackerman in 2001 annotated the other half, which corresponds to *E. bipapularis*, as the Holotype.

*Encyclia triangulifera* is cited many times in the literature. Most authors include this species in treatments of the Cuban Orchidaceae, but do not provide any additional information. Grisebach (1866), Cogniaux (in Urban 1910), Acuña (1938), Leon (1946), Withner (1996), Nir (2000) and Llamacho (2005), cite Reichenbach's description or the numerous isotypes without providing any additional information about the geographical distribution of the species or any characteristics observed from live material.

We here are establishing the location of the Holotype.

*Encyclia triangulifera* (Rchb. f.) Acuña 1938. Catalogo de Orquideas Cubanas. *Epidendrum trianguliferum* Rchb. f., 1865. Flora, 48: 277.

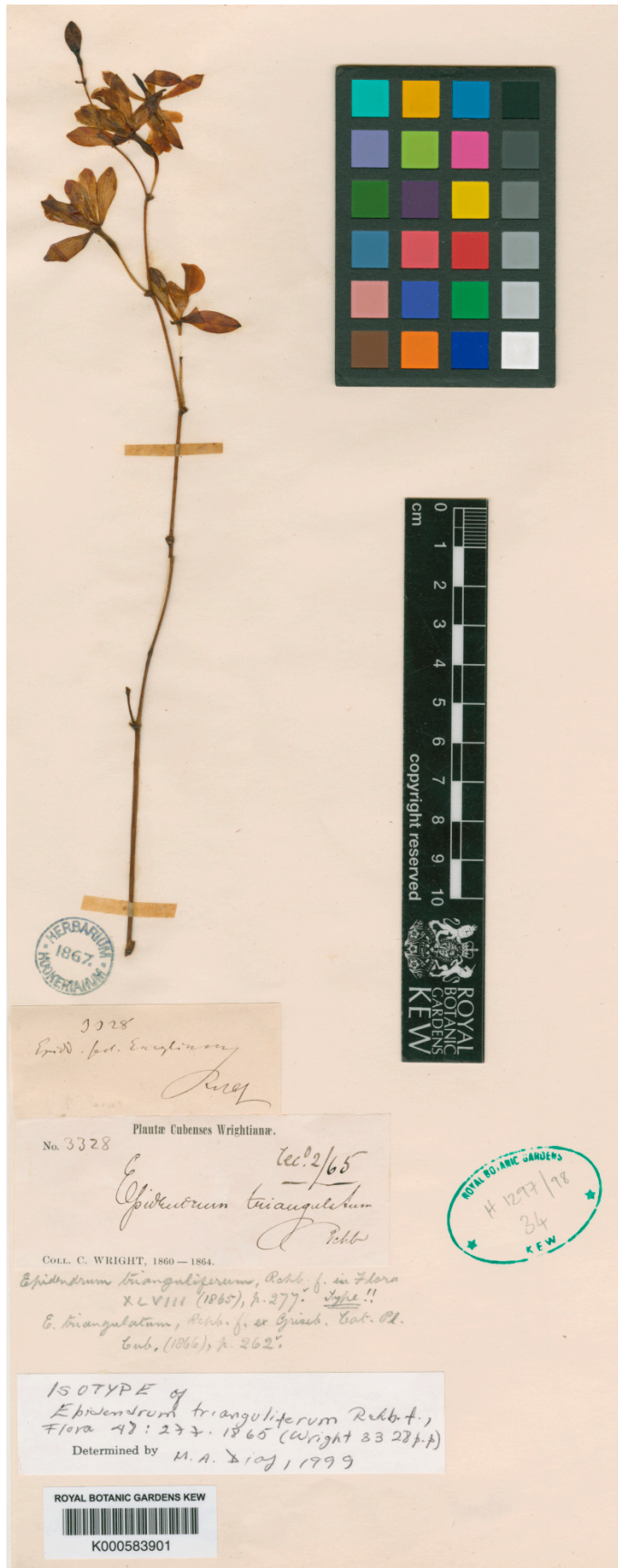
**HOLATYPE:** The part of specimen 3328 of Charles Wright found in the Hooker herbarium at Kew containing a note in Reichenbach's handwriting and with his signature identifying the specimen as *Epidendrum trianguliferum*. This is the only material available that we know Reichenbach saw.

We have not found evidence that any of the authors who have cited *E. triangulifera* previously had live material of this species. The senior author observed plants of this species early in the 1980s in the area of Cajalbanas growing sympatric with what appears to be a hybrid swarm. In addition, plants of this species from Pinar Del Rio have been introduced into cultivation recently. We have had the opportunity to observe these plants grown under greenhouse conditions.

Included here are pictures of the plants from Cajalbanas that exactly match the holotype of *E. triangulifera*.



*Encyclia triangulifera* (Rchb. f.) Acuña from Cajalbanas.



Holotype of *Encyclia triangulifera* (Rchb. f.) Acuña in Hooker Herbarium at Kew.





*Encyclia triangulifera* (Rchb. f.) Acuña

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