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*Acianthera ortizii* Uribe-Velez, Saulea & Szlachetko (Orchidaceae) an Addition to the Flora of Colombia.

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#### Abstract

A new species *Acianthera* (*Acianthera ortizii* Uribe-Velez, Saulea & Szlachetko) (Orchidaceae) is described from La Bota Cauca, department of Cauca, Colombia.

Historically the genus *Acianthera* Scheidw. (Allg. Gartenzeitung 10: 292, 1842) was not recognized when established and the species were initially included in the genus *Pleurothallis* R. Br. (Luer, 1986). Lindley treated the species in this group as *Pleurothallis*, ignoring the genus *Acianthera*. Luer (1986) first used *Acianthera* as a subgenus of *Pleurothallis*.

The molecular analyses of Pridgeon *et al.* (2001) reported that the genus *Pleurothallis* is polyphyletic. A molecular study (Pridgeon & Chase, 2001) of the species of *Pleurothallis* subg. *Acianthera* (Scheidw.) Luer demonstrated that they form a natural group, therefore Pridgeon & Chase (2001) reestablished the genus *Acianthera*.

The genus *Acianthera* consists of 300 species according to Karremans *et al.* (2016), Karremans & Davin (2017) and Karremans & Vieira (2020) of which 32 species are found in Colombia (WCSP).

A species corresponding to the genus *Acianthera* was discovered growing epiphytically in the department of Cauca, in the area known as La Bota Cauca. Although the department of Cauca, especially the area known as La Bota Cauca, represents a small percentage of Colombia's territory, its mountainous system creates a high diversity of microhabitats, which has resulted in species richness and endemism. The region owes its name to the shape of the region, which resembles a boot. This species does not correspond to any of the known species. We here describe it as a new species.

*Acianthera ortizii* Uribe-Velez, Saulea & Szlachetko, sp. nov.

Type: Colombia, Department of Cauca, from La Bota Cauca, near the headwaters of the Caqueta River. From cultivation. Collector: Jorge Luis Aguirre, *s. n.*, 2021. (Holotype, HJPU).

## Etymology

This species is named in honor of Pedro Ortiz Valdivieso.

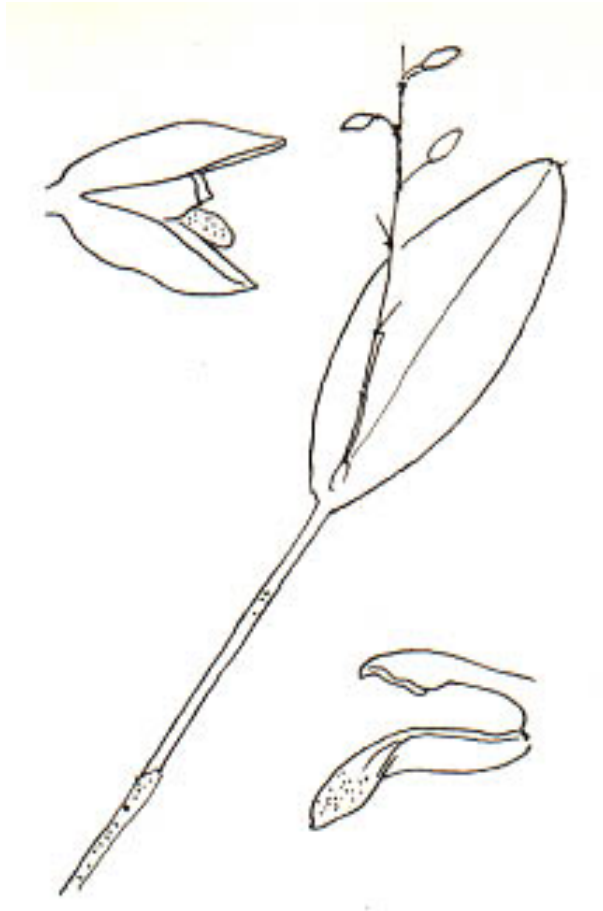
## Diagnosis

*Acianthera ortizii* florally is similar to *Pleurothallis macrophylla* Kunth (in F. W. H. von Humboldt, A. J. A. Bonpland & C. S. Kunth, Nov. Gen. Sp. 1: 365, 1816) a species found in Central and South America, which should be included in the genus *Acianthera*. It differs in that *P. macrophylla* has an erect inflorescence where *A. ortizii* has a pendant inflorescence. In addition, the apex of the labellum is obtuse in *A. ortizii* but acute in *P. macrophylla* and in *A. ortizii* the wings of the column are triangular acute, *P. macrophylla* has wings, which are obtuse. Both species *A. ortizii* and *P. macrophylla* characteristically correspond more to the definition of the genus *Acianthera* than to *Pleurothallis*.

In habit *A. ortizii* resembles *Acianthera breedlovei* Soto Arenas, Solano & Salazar from Mexico and Guatemala differing in the flower segments. The petals of *A. breedlovei* are attenuate and the labellum is trilobed. *Acianthera ortizii* has sessile petals and the labellum is not trilobed.

*Acianthera ortizii* is similar in flower morphology to *Acianthera aculeata* (Luer & Hirtz) Luer from southeastern Ecuador. *Acianthera ortizii* differs in having a pendent inflorescence, simultaneous-flowered, leaf is ligulate-lanceolate, flowers are tubular, not broadly opened, nonresupinate, dorsal sepal is oblong-obovate, glabrous on inner surface, synsepal with minutely ciliate margins, petals are acute, labellum is yellowish with reddish apex, column with obliquely triangular wings. *Acianthera aculeata* differs from *A. ortizii* in having an erect inflorescence, successively-flowered, leaf is elliptic, flowers are campanulate, resupinate, dorsal sepal is ligulate, rigose on inner surface, synsepal glabrous, petals truncate, labellum blackish, column wings obliquely elliptic-obovate.

Another species florally similar to *A. ortizii* is the Colombian species *Acianthera pazii* Luer, but differs in having successively few-flowered inflorescence, flowers broadly opened and petals are truncate, the labellum is densely papillate in apical third and column lacks wings.



*Pleurothallis macrophylla* Kunth. Illustration from archive of Pedro Ortiz Valdivieso.

### Description

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, pendant, to 42 cm; ramicaul slender, round, to 14 cm long, 3 mm thick; leaf narrowly elliptic to ligulate-lanceolate, coriaceous, acute, to 28 cm long, 4 cm wide; inflorescence pendant, to 4-flowered, simultaneous-flowered; floral bracts membranaceous, tubular, acute, to 3.5 cm long; pedicel cylindrical, to 14 cm long; ovary ridged, to 14 cm long, 2 mm thick; flowers reddish-purple, tubular, not broadly opened, nonresupinate; dorsal sepal oblong-obovate, glabrous on inner surface, subacute, to 2.4 cm long, 1.2 cm wide; lateral sepals connate, elliptic, subacute, with minutely ciliate margins, to 2.6 cm long, 1.5 cm wide; petals sessile, obovate to elliptic, acute, centrally fleshy, to 1 cm long, 1 cm wide; labellum ligulate, obtuse, yellow with reddish papillate apex, to 15 cm long, 7 mm wide, with two parallel fleshy keels that extend to the distal part of the labellum; column, arcuate, rounded, to 1 cm long, 1.5 mm wide, with obliquely elliptic-obovate to triangular, acute wings.

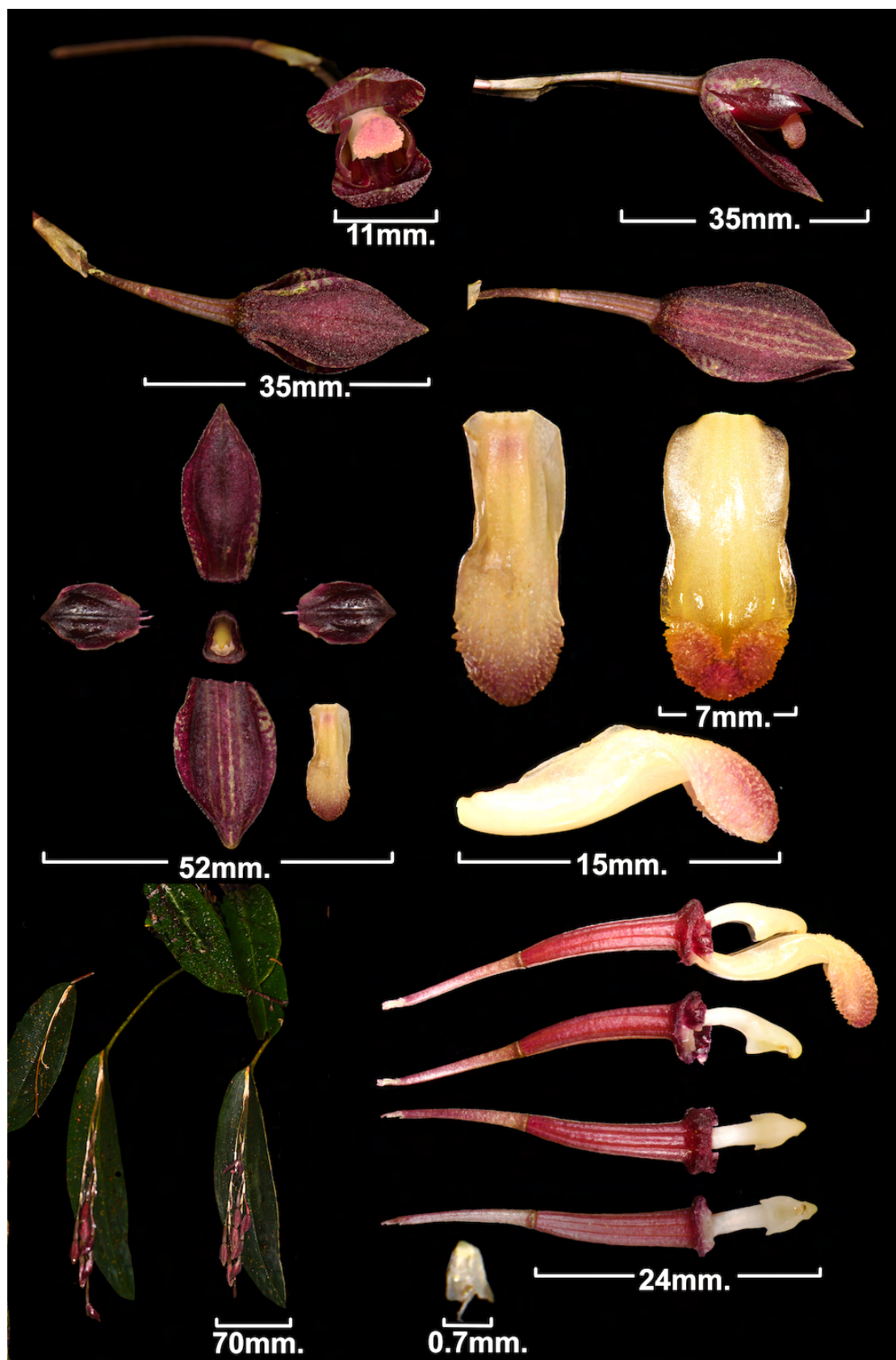


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