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A New Species of *Encyclia* Hooker From the Bahamas Islands

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A New Species of *Encyclia* Hooker From the Bahamas Islands

Ruben P. Sauleda[1]

[1] 22585 S. W. 187 Avenue, Miami, Fl 33170

ABSTRACT: A new species from Andros Island, Bahama Islands is described and compared with three similar species found on Andros Island in the Bahama Islands.

While field collecting for my master's thesis on the Orchidaceae of Andros, Bahama Islands, on 10 July 1976, I encountered on Driggs Hill, Andros Island, an orchid in flower that at first glance appeared to be *Encyclia tampensis* (Lindl.) Small. However, on closer examination of the plants and flowers, distinct and consistent differences were observed. After a careful search of the literature, a validly published name for this species was not found. The following name is proposed for this species:

Encyclia androsiana Sauleda, sp. nov.

HOLOTYPE: BAHAMA ISLANDS: ANDROS ISLAND: Driggs Hill, 10 July 1976, S*auleda 1048*, (USF).

DIAGNOSIS

Encyclia androsiana grows sympatrically with three *Encyclia* species: *Encyclia tampensis*, *Encyclia fehlingii* (Sauleda) Sauleda & Adams and *Encyclia withneri* (Sauleda) Sauleda & Adams. It differs from *E. tampensis* in having the side lobes of the labellum obtuse, flat and not tightly clasping the column and the labellum is basally adnate to the column. In *E. tampensis* the side lobes are acute clasping the column and the lip is free from the column. *Encyclia androsiana* differs from *E. fehlingii* mainly in the termination of the callosity under the column. In *E. fehlingii* the callosity ends in three equal lobes, while in *E. androsiana* it ends in two equal lobes. It differs from *E. withneri* principally in the lack of ridges on the disc of the labellum. *Encyclia withneri* has three prominent ridges extending on to the disc.

DESCRIPTION

Plant epiphytic, rhizomatous, to 35 cm tall; roots many, thick, canescent; primary stem or rhizome short, stout, creeping, enclosed by imbricating scarious sheaths; secondary stems modified into pseudobulbs, erect, clustered, ovate, to 3 cm long, 2.5 cm thick, basally enclosed by scarious sheaths, 1 leaf at apex; leaves coriaceous, stiff, linear to linear-lanceolate, acute, to 22 cm long, 1.4 cm wide; inflorescence terminal, to 26 cm tall, peduncles slender, erect, distantly several-sheathed, to 15 flowers; floral bracts lanceolate, acute, concave, to 6 mm long, 5 mm wide; ovary pedicellate, slender, to 2.4 cm long; sepals greenish-brown with brown

suffusion, oblanceolate, abruptly acute, to 2 cm long, 6 mm wide; petals greehish-brown with brown suffusion becoming darker toward apex, obovate to spatulate, abruptly acute, to 1.5 cm long, 5 mm wide; labellum basally adnate to column for 2-3 mm, deeply 3-lobed, to 1.4 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, white with radiating purple lines extending half way on lateral lobes, lateral lobes oblong, obtuse, semi-erect to nearly flat, not embracing column, mid lobe rounded, emarginate, with dark reddish-purple spot, callosity under column is two lateral erect keels joining at apex of column; column white, basally light green, streaked with purple, elongate, to 1.0 cm long, 4 mm wide, with membranaceous incurved rounded auricles, anther yellow.

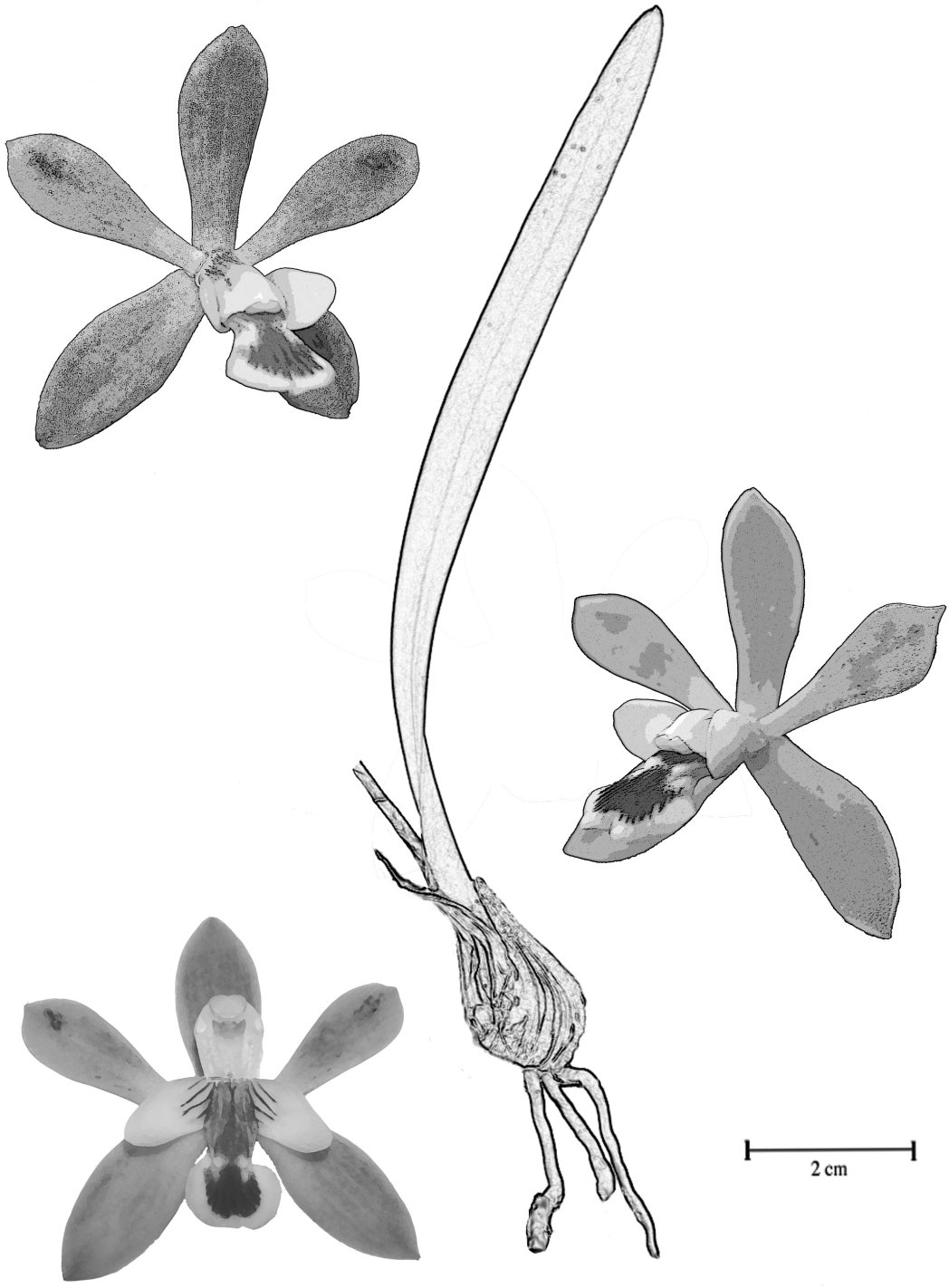
DISTRIBUTION IN THE BAHAMA ISLANDS: Andros Island, Bahama Islands, Driggs Hill.

During a trip to Driggs Hill on 2 May 1979 with Donovan S. Correll we encountered this species again. We both realized that this was an undescribed species and had planned to describe it. Having written the Orchid Flora of North America, he was very familiar with *E. tampensis*. However, because of the deadline for the manuscript of the Flora of the Bahamas we were not able to publish this new species.

The plants in this population are only slightly variable, mostly in the color of the sepals and petals. The side lobes of the labellum are consistent throughout the population and distinct from what is observed in *E. tampensis*. The side lobes of the labellum are obtuse, flat and usually do not clasp the column. They tend to flatten out away from the column. The labellum is basally adnate to the column for 2-3 mm. This character is rare in *Encyclia* and has never been observed in *E. tampensis*. The callus under the column is thicker and the column is much shorter and wider than what is usual in *E. tampensis, E. fehlingii* or *E. withneri*. A few days after the flower opens the labellum tends to turn yellow. The plants are smaller than the average plant of *E. tampensis*. The inflorescences are much shorter and carry fewer flowers. The midlobe of the labellum lacks the ridges found in *E. withneri*.

On subsequent trips to Driggs Hill in the late 1980's, most of the trees where *E. androsiana* was observed had been cut down and we were not able to find any plants at the type locality.

Encyclia androsiana Sauleda Holotype (USF)



Encyclia androsiana Sauleda

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Encyclia tampensis (Lindl.) Small

Encyclia withneri (Sauleda) Sauleda & Adams

Encyclia fehlingii (Sauleda) Sauleda & Adams

Variation in *Encyclia androsiana* Sauleda

Variation in *Encyclia tampensis* (Lindl.) Small

Encyclia withneri (Sauleda) Sauleda & Adams

Encyclia fehlingii (Sauleda) Sauleda & Adams