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Andrea Niessen<sup>1</sup>, Juan Carlos Uribe<sup>1</sup> Ruben P. Sauleda<sup>2</sup> and Dariusz L. Szlachetko<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Calle 10 N # 9N-31. Cali, Colombia.

<sup>2</sup>6442 SW 107 Ct., Miami, FL. 33173.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Plant Taxonomy and Nature Conservation, University of Gdańsk, Wita Stwosza 59, 80-308 Gdańsk, Poland.

*Gongora araucaensis* Niessen, J. C. Uribe, Sauleda and Szlachetko (Orchidaceae), an Addition to the Flora of Colombia.

#### Abstract

A new species of *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. (Orchidaceae), *Gongora araucaensis* Niessen, J. C. Uribe, Sauleda and Szlachetko from Department of Arauca, Rio Cravo Norte, is described.

#### Introduction

The genus *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. consists of over 70 species (WCSP, 2018) of which at present over 30 are found in Colombia. Many of the species demonstrate a wide range of color. However, the basic characteristics of the labellum remain constant within each species. The shape, location and angle of the basal horns and the shape and size of the hypochile, mesochile and epichile are constant within each species. These are the main elements that must be considered when classifying the species. These characters are responsible in determining the pollinator for the species, which in turn maintains the reproductive isolation of the species.

A population of *Gongora* was discovered in the department of Arauca, which differs from the known species in the basic elements of the labellum. We here describe it as a new species.

*Gongora araucaensis* Niessen, J. C. Uribe, Sauleda and Szlachetko, *sp. nov.*

Type: Ex hort. Niessen and J. C. Uribe, *s. n.*, 2023. Cultivated by A. Niessen and J. C. Uribe. Plant collected by Mario Moreno, Department of Arauca, Rio Cravo Norte, Colombia. (Holotype: HPUJ).

#### Diagnosis

*Gongora araucaensis* Niessen, J. C. Uribe, Sauleda and Szlachetko is similar to *Gongora rufescens* Jenny, but differs in that *G. araucaensis* has sessile labellum, in *G. rufescens* the labellum is set on a short, but conspicuous column foot. The petals do not reach the anther base in *G. araucaensis* where in *G. rufescens* the petals reach the anther. In addition, the hypochile of the labellum is different. The hypochile of *G. araucaensis* is subquadrate when viewed from the side, with abruptly truncate base

obliquely attached with the gynostemium. In *G. rufescens* the hypochile is obliquely elliptic-pandurate, with cuneate base. Basal horns of *G. araucaensis* are short, widely spread, while in *G. rufescens* they are elongate, curled downwards.

*Gongora araucaensis* is similar to *Gongora histronica* Rchb. f., *Gongora pardina* Jenny, *Gongora niesseniae* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez, *Gongora antioquiensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez and *Gongora aromatica* Rchb. f., differs in the basic elements of the labellum, the shape, location and angle of the basal horns and the shape and size of the hypochile, mesochile and epichile.

### Description

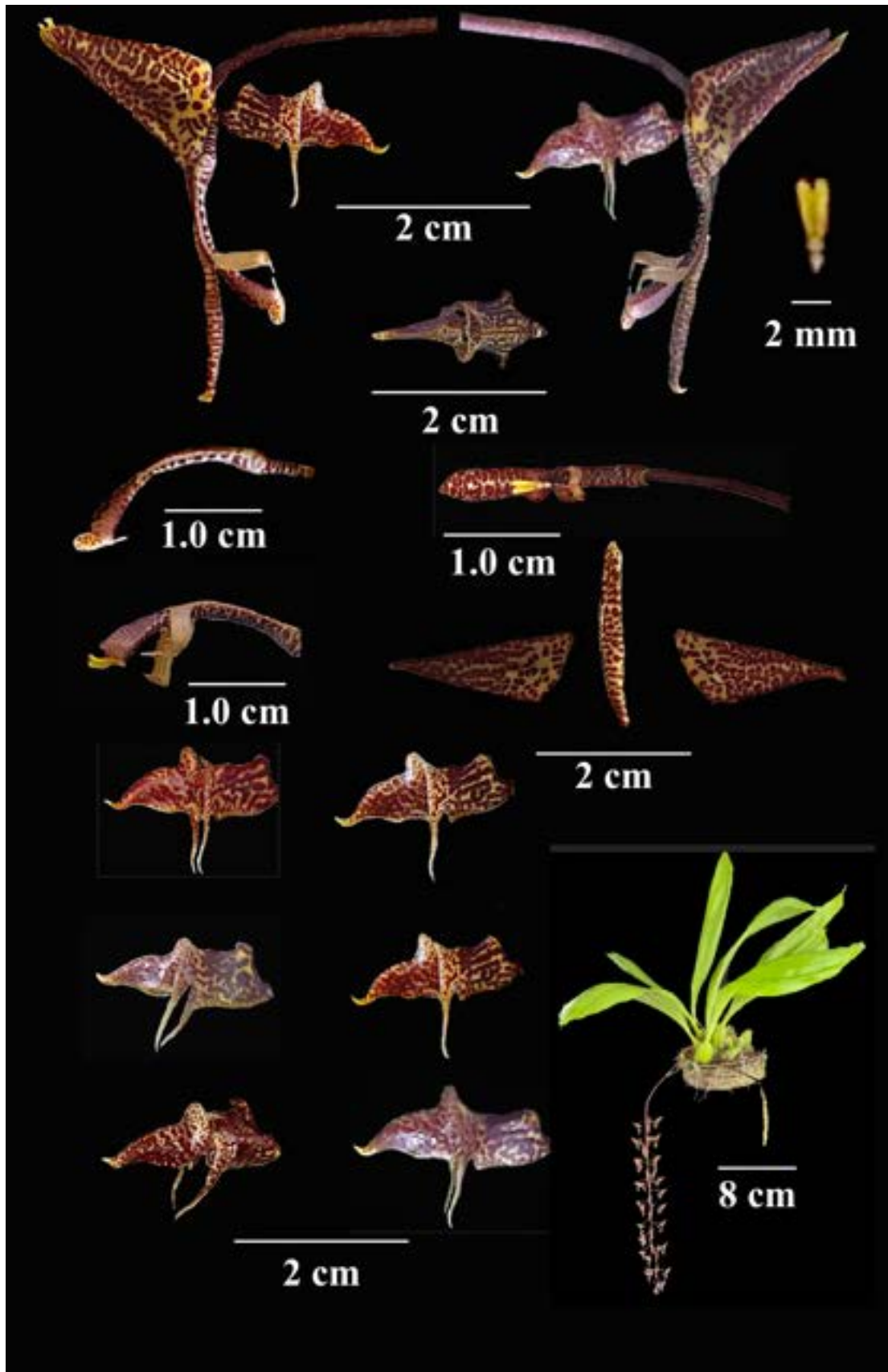
Plant epiphytic, to 40 cm tall with short rhizomes; pseudobulbs clustered, ovate, deeply ridged, to 8 cm tall, 4 cm wide, bifoliate; leaves petiolate, broadly elliptic, subacute, to 38 cm long, 8 cm wide, petiole to 8 cm long; inflorescence pendent, to 40 cm long, to 32 flowered, floral bracts triangular, acute, to 2 mm long, 2 mm wide; flowers yellow with brown spots; dorsal sepal, narrowly lanceolate to linear, subacute, to 2.0 cm long, 0.8 cm wide, edges, revolute; lateral sepals, lanceolate, truncate, acute, reflexed, with revolute edges, to 2 cm long, 1.8 cm wide; petals linear, to 1.0 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; labellum sessile, to 2 cm long, 0.8 cm wide; hypochile is subquadrate when viewed from the side, with abruptly truncate base obliquely attached with the gynostemium, basal horns are short, widely spread, mesochile tips extended and apiculate, hump distinct, epichile apiculate, recurved; column yellow with reddish-brown spots, thin wings at the tip, to 1.3 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; anther cap yellow with reddish-brown spots, to 2 mm wide.



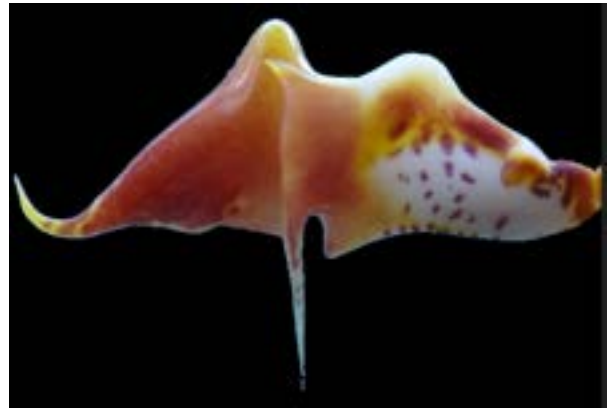
*Gongora araucaensis* Niessen, J. C. Uribe, Sauleda and Szlachetko.



*Gongora araucaensis* Niessen, J. C. Uribe, Sauleda and Szlachetko.



*Gongora araucaensis* Niessen, J. C. Uribe, Sauleda and Szlachetko.



*Gongora rufescens* Jenny.



*Gongora histronica* Rehb. f.



*Gongora pardina* Jenny.

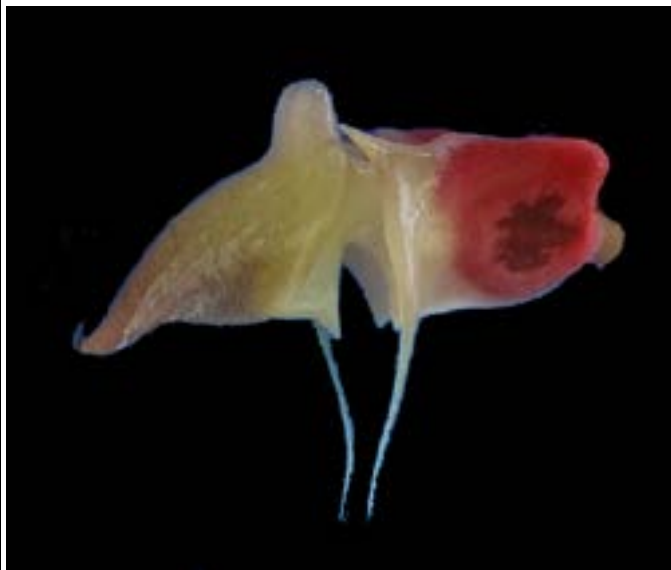


*Gongora niesseniae* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.





*Gongora antioquiensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



*Gongora aromatica* Rchb. f.

## Literature Cited

WCSP. 2018. World Checklist Of Selected Plant Families. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet.