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Gongora bota-caucanensis Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez (Orchidaceae), an Addition to the Flora of Colombia.

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Abstract

A new species of *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. (Orchidaceae), *Gongora bota-caucanensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez is described for Colombia.

Introduction

The genus *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. consists of over 70 species (WCSP, 2018) of which at present 32 are found in Colombia. Recently a number of new species have been discovered in orchid collections, either without names or incorrectly identified. Three new species in cultivation have been named: *Gongora gloriana* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko (Uribe-Velez et al, 2022a), *Gongora antioquiensis* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko (Uribe-Velez et al, 2022b) and *Gongora niesseniae* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez (Sauleda et al, 2022).

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

Gongora bota-caucanensis Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez, *sp. nov.*

Type: Colombia, Department of Cauca, from La Bota Caucana, near the headwaters of the Caqueta River. From cultivation. Collector: Jorge Luis Aguirre, *s. n.*, 2020. (Holotype, HJPU).

Etymology

This new species was named for the type locality, the region known as La Bota Caucana. It is a region in the southeast corner of the department of Cauca. The region owes its name to the shape of the area, which resembles a boot.

Diagnosis

Gongora bota-caucanensis is similar to its Colombian congener *Gongora irmgardiae* Jenny, but its hypochile basal horns do not reach the upper margin of hypochile while seen from aside where in *G. irmgardiae* the basal horns reach the upper hypochile margin. In *G. bota-caucanensis* these horns are produced above basal third of the hypochile, while in *G. irmgardiae* they are produced just above the base of the hypochile. Flower color in both taxa is generally similar in the type forms, but in *G. bota-caucanensis* the epichile and apical hypochile horns are maroon colored.

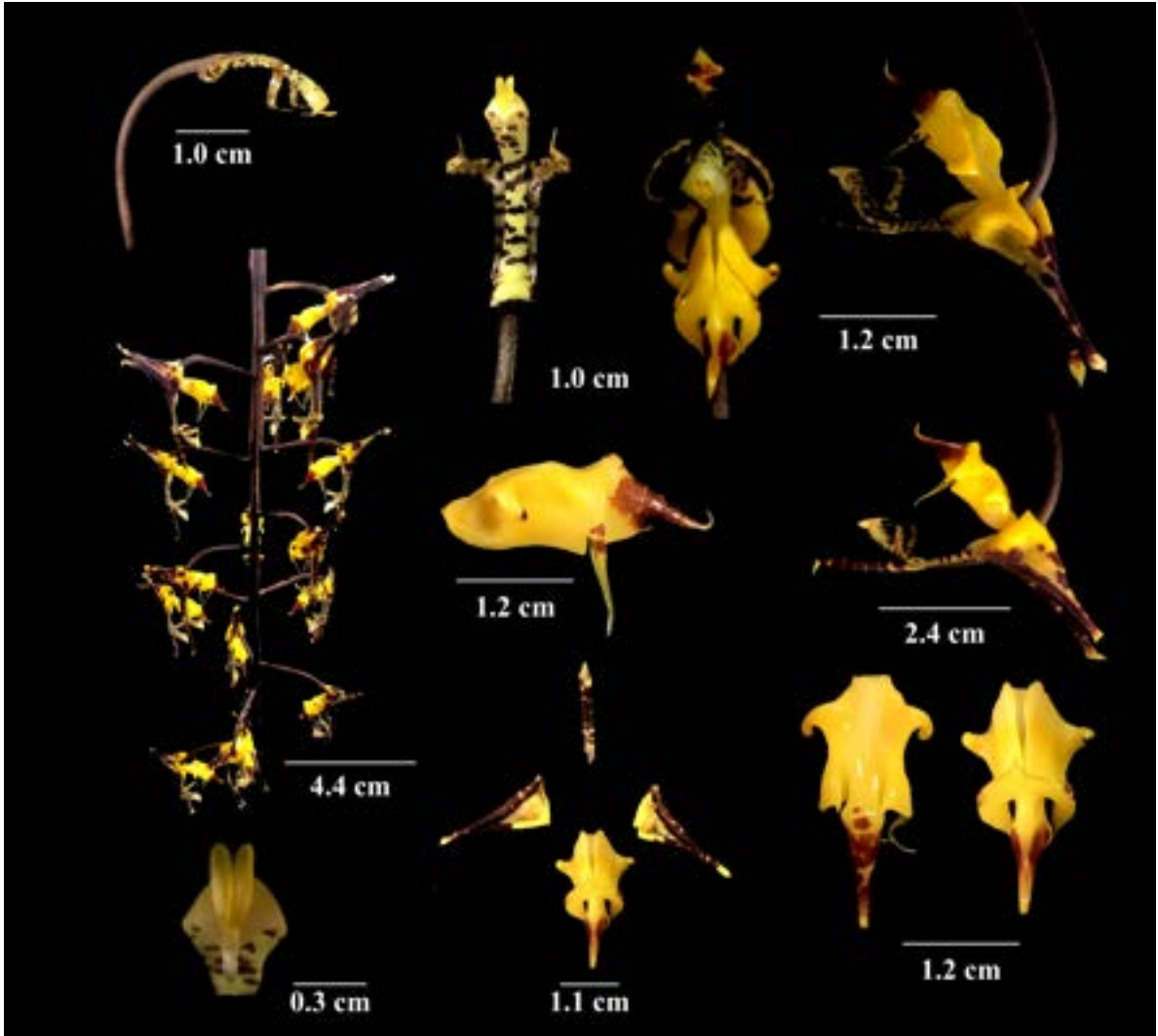
Gongora bota-caucanensis is similar to *Gongora powellii* Schltr., but the basic color of the flowers is yellow, with variously distributed maroon-red stains, basal hypochile horns are distinctly longer, and epichile apex is long-acuminate, hooked.

Description

Plant epiphytic with short rhizomes; pseudobulbs clustered, obovate, deeply ridged, to 6 cm tall, 3 cm wide, bifoliate; leaves petiolate, oblanceolate, acute, to 25 cm long, 8 cm wide, petiole to 3 cm long; inflorescence pendent, to 24 cm long, to 16 flowered, floral bracts triangular, acute, to 2 mm long, 2 mm wide; flowers yellow, with irregular brown-maroon spots; dorsal sepal linear-lanceolate, acute, to 2.0 cm long, 0.3 cm wide, edges slightly revolute; lateral sepal asymmetrically triangular, truncate, acute, reflexed, with revolute edges, to 2 cm long, 1.3 cm wide; petals linear, ending in two long acute bristles, to 1.2 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; labellum bright yellow with the epichile and apical hypochile horns maroon colored, to 2.4 cm long, 1.2 cm wide; hypochile with short lateral horns, tips subacute; mesochile tips extended and apiculate, hump distinct; epichile apiculate, recurved; column bright yellow with dark reddish-brown spots, curved, to 1.2 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; anther cap bright yellow with dark reddish-brown spots.



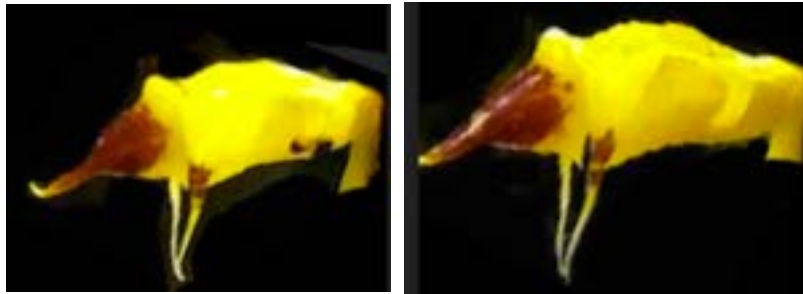
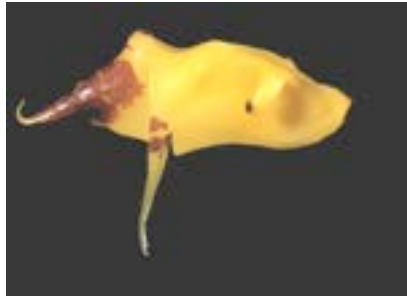
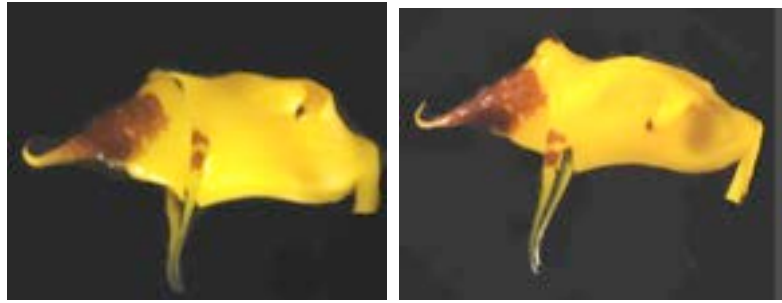
Gongora bota-caucanensis Saulea, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



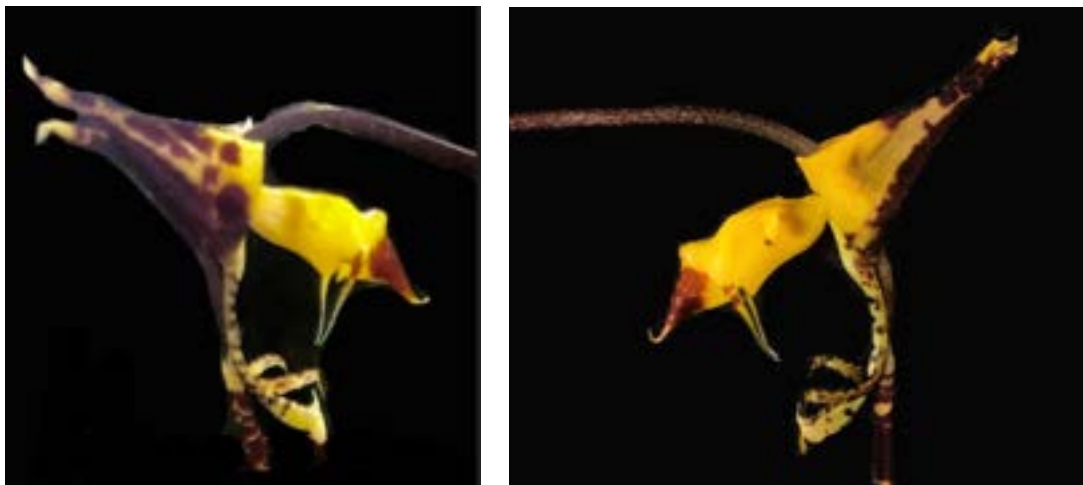
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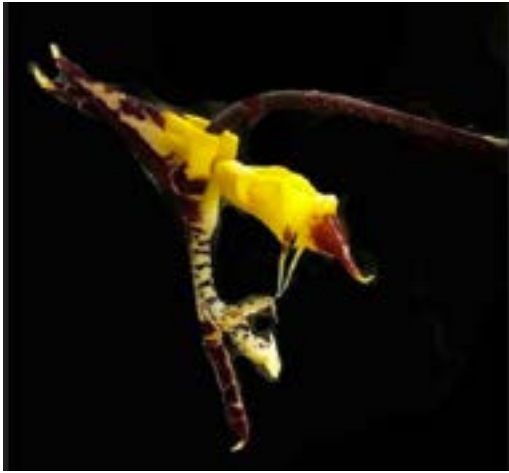
Gongora bota-caucanensis Saulea, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



Variation in labella of *Gongora bota-caucanensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



Variation in *Gongora bota-caucanensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



Variation in *Gongora bota-caucanensis* Saulea, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



Gongora irmgardiae Jenny, Monogr. Gongora: 53 (1993). This species is variable in color. The form pictured is an alba form. Regardless of the color the basic elements of the labellum remain constant.



Gongora powellii Schltr. Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 17: 62 (1922).

Acknowledgement

The icon of this species was sent to Rudolf Jenny for his assessment prior to his passing. He acknowledged that it was an undescribed species. We will always be indebted to him for the excellent monographs of Orchidaceae and the knowledge he always shared.

Literature Cited

Uribe-Velez, C, R, P. Sauleda and D. L. Szlachetko. 2022a. *Gongora gloriana* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko (Orchidaceae), an Addition to the Flora of Colombia. New World Orchidaceae – Nomenclatural Notes Nomenclatural Note – Issue No. 109.

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