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The Proper Name For A Colombian *Cattleya* Lindl.

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ABSTRACT: The proper name for a Colombian *Cattleya* species is determined, *Cattleya candida* (Kunth) Lehmann.

One of the most beautiful cattleya species in Colombia has been called by several names. Determination of the correct name is actually very simple. We must start with the earliest validly published name for this species which is *Cymbidium candidum* (Kunth in H.B.K., Nov. Gen. Sp. 1(4): 342, 1816).

In 1895, Lehmann transferred the name to the genus *Cattleya* Lindl. His intentions were very clear by his comments: “In accordance to the laws of priority in naming and describing plants, I consider it high time that this plant should be referred to its original name as given by Kunth. *Cattleya candida* is one of the two first described species of this genus, and although it was placed in *Cymbidium*, Kunth expressed his conviction that it could not belong to that genus on account of it’s possessing four pollinia.”

The species is very well described by Kunth, and easily recognized by this description.” Lehmann gives as “Synm. *Cymbidium candidum*, H.B.K.; *Cattleya chocoensis*, Hort.” There is no doubt that he is transferring *Cymbidium candidum* to the genus *Cattleya*. The International Rules for Botanical Nomenclature states: 41.3 Before 1 January 1953 an indirect reference (see Art. 38.14) to a basionym or replaced synonym is sufficient for valid publication of a new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name. Thus, errors in the citation of the basionym or replaced synonym, or in author citation (Art. 46), do not affect valid publication of such names”. Lehmann gives *Cymbidium candidum* and *Cattleya chocoensis* as synonyms. The first name, *Cymbidium candidum* was intended as the basionym as he clearly stated in the text accompanying the transfer.

There is some confusion with another *Cattleya candida* published by B.S. Williams (Gard. Chron. 1851: 453). However, it lacks a Latin diagnosis and typification, therefore is invalidly published. Williams gives the description: *Cat. candida*. - A desirable free-growing species from Brazil, about a foot high; sepals and petals are of a delicate white, slightly shaded with pink; the lip is of the same color, with a shade of yellow in the centre. It flowers from July to November, and lasts three or four weeks in good condition, if the flowers are kept free from damp. This plants makes two growths in a year, and blooms from both, producing three or four flowers on a spike”. Williams was referring to *Cattleya loddigesii*. This was an illegitimate name and also superfluous

since *C. loddigesii* had already been published in 1826 (Coll. Bot.: t. 37). The species epithet '*candida*' was still available in the genus *Cattleya* when Lehmann published the transfer.

The Colombian species, is most often offered to as *Cattleya quadracolor* and sometimes as *C. chocoensis*, should correctly be called *Cattleya candida*.



Cattleya candida (Kunth) Lehmann growing in a tree in the central cordillera of Colombia.



Cattleya candida (Kunth) Lehmann



Cattleya candida (Kunth) Lehmann, pink form.