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

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#### Abstract

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

A second species corresponding to the genus *Acianthera* was discovered growing sympatrically with *Acianthera ortizii* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko epiphytically in the department of Cauca, in the area known as La Bota Caucana. The department of Cauca has a high diversity of microhabitats that has resulted in species richness and endemism. Several species have recently been found in the area, which are new to the flora of Colombia (*Telepogon stinae* Dodson & Dalström, *Telepogon bota-caucanensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda, *Stelis bota-caucanensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda, *Scelochilus colombianum* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda). 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 caucanensis* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko, 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.*, 2021. (Holotype, HJPU).

#### Diagnosis

*Acianthera caucanensis* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko is similar to *Acianthera ortizii* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko with which it is sympatric. However, *A. caucanensis* differs in the form of the labellum, which is spatulate in general outline. *Acianthera ortizii* has a ligulate labellum. The basal half of the labellum of *A. caucanensis* is subquadrate, canaliculate, with a pair of parallel glabrous keels separated by a prominent groove, the apical half of the labellum is more or less deltoid, irregularly wrinkled with apical margins strongly revolute, appearing convex. The labellum of *A. ortizii* is ligulate, obtuse, yellow with reddish papillate apex, with two parallel fleshy keels that extend to the distal part of the labellum. The species can be easily separated by pedicel to ovary ratio.

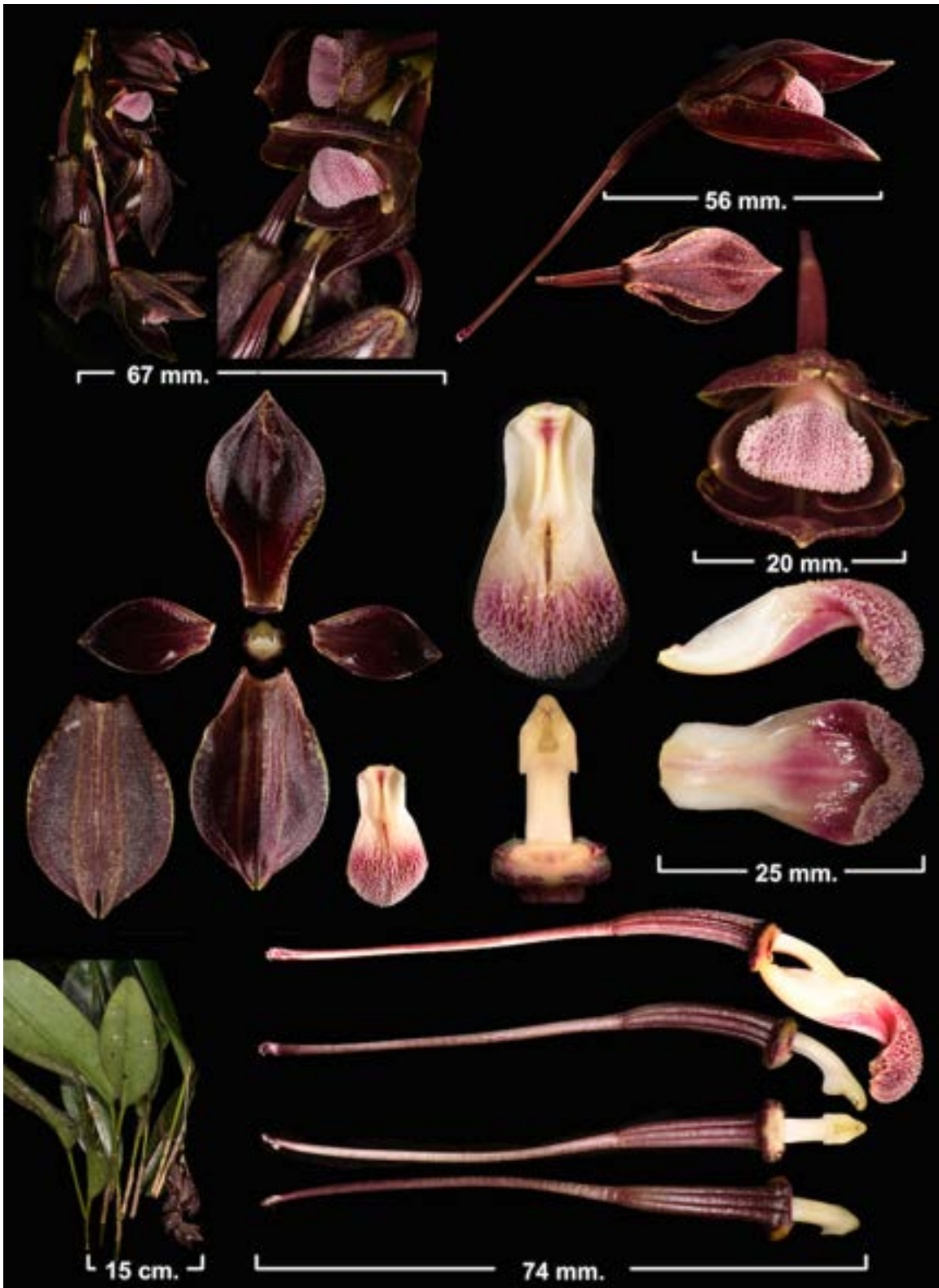
In *A. ortizii* the ovary is slightly longer than the pedicel, whereas in *A. caucanensis* the pedicel is twice as long as the ovary. Length of the pedicel, ovary and column in *A. ortizii* is 2.4 cm, in *A. caucanensis* the length is 7.4 cm. Also the plant and flowers of *A. caucanensis* are substantially larger than *A. ortizii*.

General flower color in both species is very similar (magenta), but the labellum of *A. ortizii* is yellowish with reddish apex, and in *A. caucanensis* the basal part is white with magenta apex. In addition, the dorsal sepal of *A. caucanensis* is obovoid, basally narrow, *A. ortizii* has an oblong dorsal sepal. One of the most striking differences is that the plant of *A. caucanensis* is erect with an erect inflorescence arching to almost pendant separating from the leaf, where *A. ortizii* is a pendant plant with a pendant inflorescence appressed on the leaf. Also the flowers of *A. ortizii* are tubular in appearance where the flowers of *A. caucanensis* tend to spread.

*Acianthera caucanensis* is similar to *Pleurothallis macrophylla*, which should be considered an *Acianthera*. *Acianthera caucanensis* differs from *P. macrophylla* in the free, bidentate synsepalum, *P. macrophylla* has the sepals completely connate. *Acianthera caucanensis* has petals, which are obovate to elliptic, acute, *P. macrophylla* has oblong obovate petals with thin margins, prominently triangular in apical quarter. The apical half of the labellum is irregularly wrinkled in *A. caucanensis*, *P. macrophylla* has a papillate apical half. In *P. macrophylla* the pedicel and ovary are the same length while in *A. caucanensis* the pedicel is twice as long as the ovary.

## Description

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, erect, to 55 cm tall; ramicaul slender, round, to 25 cm long, 4 mm thick; leaf elliptic, coriaceous, obtuse, to 30 cm long, 6 cm wide; inflorescence erect becoming pendant with the weight of the flowers, to 10-flowered, simultaneous-flowered; basal bracts membraneous, tubular, acute, to 8 cm long; pedicel cylindrical, to 40 cm long; ovary ridged, to 20 cm long, 3 mm thick; flowers reddish-purple, spreading, nonresupinate; dorsal sepal ovate, attenuate, glabrous, acute, to 3.7 cm long, 2.2 cm wide; lateral sepals fused to nearly the apex, bidentate (synsepal), sessile, elliptic, acute, to 4.0 cm long, 2.5 cm wide; petals sessile, obovate to elliptic, acute, to 1.9 cm long, 1.6 cm wide; labellum basally white with magenta apex, subquadrate, canaliculate, with a pair of parallel glabrous keels separated by a prominent groove, the apical half of the labellum is more or less deltoid, irregularly wrinkled with apical margins strongly revolute, appearing convex, to 3 cm long, 2 cm wide; column, arcuate, rounded, to 1.6 cm long, 1.6 mm wide, with triangular obtuse wings.



*Acianthera caucanensis* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko.



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*Acianthera ortizii* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda  
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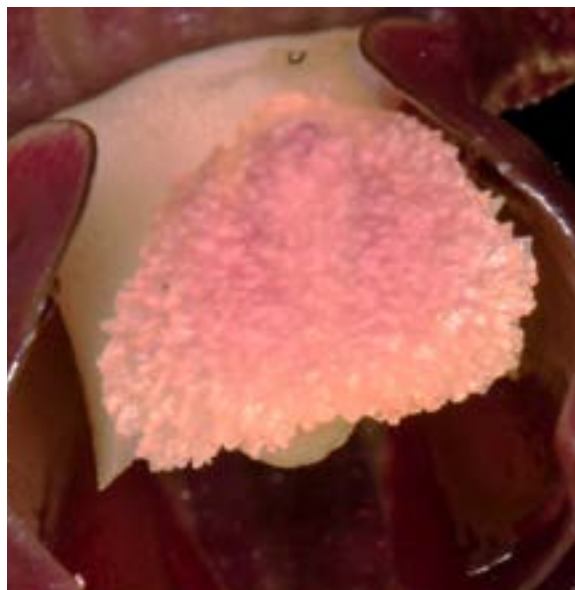
*Acianthera caucanensis* Uribe-Velez,  
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