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A New Species of *Huntleya* Bateman ex Lindl. (Orchidaceae) is Described From the Serranía del Perijá, Along the Colombia Venezuela Border.

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Abstract

A new species of *Huntleya* Bateman ex Lindl. from the Serranía del Perijá, along the Colombia Venezuela border is compared to three similar described species, first clearly defining each of the three species and describing the new species as *Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda

The genus *Huntleya* Bateman ex Lindl., was published in 1837 in Edwards's Bot. Reg. 23: t. 1991, by John Lindley after receiving a memorandum from Bateman suggesting the establishment of the genus. The genus *Huntleya* at present has 14 recognized species, 11 of which are found in Colombia (WCSP, 2018).

In the Serranía del Perijá, which extends from the region of Catatumbo in the department of Norte de Santander to the department of Zulia in Venezuela, were discovered several plants that are similar to three species of *Huntleya* that occur in Colombia and Venezuela. The three species are: *Huntleya apiculata* (Rchb. f.) Rolfe reported from Colombia and also found in Venezuela, *Huntleya fasciata* Fowlie reported from Panama to Ecuador, *Huntleya lucida* (Rolfe) Rolfe reported from Trinidad, Venezuela to Guyana and Ecuador (WCSP, 2018).

In order to make the determination that the plants from the Serranía del Perijá are an undescribed species, the three similar species first had to be studied and clearly defined. A lack of fieldwork has resulted in confusion in many genera of Orchidaceae including *Huntleya*. Explorations in areas of Colombia which were previously inaccessible has resulted in the discovery of new species and a better understanding of species which were only known from the type collection.

An analysis of the three species is as follows:

*Huntleya apiculata* (Rchb. f.) Rolfe. Orchid Review 24 (286): 236. 1916.  
*Batemanian apiculata* Rchb. f. Linnaea 41: 109. 1877. (Dec 1876).

*Huntleya apiculata* has been a source of confusion. It was described by Reichenbach as white, with sepals oblong triangular, apiculate; hypochile semiovalate, retuse; column wings subtriangular obtuse. An illustration in *Xenia Orchidacea* (Vol. III t. 216, 1900) of *B. apiculata* shows two flowers. The flower on the right more closely matches Reichenbach's description. The most distinguishing feature of this species is the shape of the petals, which are different from the other species here considered. Many plants have now been found in Colombia which match Reichenbach's description except for the color. However, yellow forms which have a white base to the sepals, petals and labellum have been found.

The column of *H. apiculata* has broad green divergent column wings; the labellum is broadly semiovalate, base color is white, becoming reddish-brown towards the lateral margins and apex, apex is reddish-brown; the crest is semicircular, white, fimbriate, the fimbriae on the apical portion of crest are shorter than the fimbriae on the lateral margin; lateral margins of petals are smooth, sepals and petals are widest at base, quickly narrowing, almost as wide as long, apiculate.



Illustration of *Batemanian apiculata* Rchb. f. in *Xenia Orchidacea* Vol. III t. 216 (1900).



*Huntleya apiculata* (Rchb. f.) Rolfe.



*Huntleya apiculata* (Rchb. f.) Rolfe.



*Huntleya apiculata* (Rchb. f.) Rolfe. Photograph from internet gallery of Sociedad Colombiana de Orquideologia.

***Huntleya lucida*** (Rolfe) Rolfe. Orchid Review 24 (286): 236. 1916.

*Zygopetalum lucidum* Rolfe. The Gardeners' Chronicle: A weekly illustrated journal of horticulture and allied subjects. ser. 3, 5: 799. 1889. (29 Jun 1889).

The column of *H. lucida* has narrow yellow column wings with crenulate margins; labellum is minutely 3-lobed, broadly lanceolate, acute, recurved, base color white with a narrow band of reddish-brown towards apex, apex yellow abruptly recurved upwards, surface glandular; fimbriae on apical portion of crest much shorter than lateral fimbriae; crest is yellow, semicircular, concave; sepals and petals broadly lanceolate acute, lateral margins of petals smooth. Plants are cespitose.



*Huntleya lucida* (Rolfe) Rolfe.



*Huntleya lucida* (Rolfe) Rolfe.

*Huntleya fasciata* Fowlie. Orchid Digest 30 (9): 281–282, f. pg. 280. 1966.

The column of *H. fasciata* has rounded obtuse column wings; labellum is broadly lanceolate, acute, recurved, basally white, reddish-brown, margin and apex yellow; crest is semicircular, yellow; sepals lanceolate, acuminate; petals narrowly elliptic, acute, lateral margins of petals smooth. Plants are not caespitose, but have a rhizome allowing the plant to creep upward.



*Huntleya fasciata* Fowlie.



*Huntleya fasciata* Fowlie.

After extensive analysis and comparison of the species of *Huntleya*, we have determined the plants from Serranía del Perijá, to be a new species, which we here describe.

***Huntleya colombovenezuelensis*** Uribe-Velez & Sauleda, sp. nov.

TYPE: Serranía del Perijá, Norte de Santander, region of Catatumbo, to Zulia Venezuela, from cultivation, *s. n.* (Holotype, HPUJ).

Specimen made September 2019, from collection of Cristobal Papiermik.

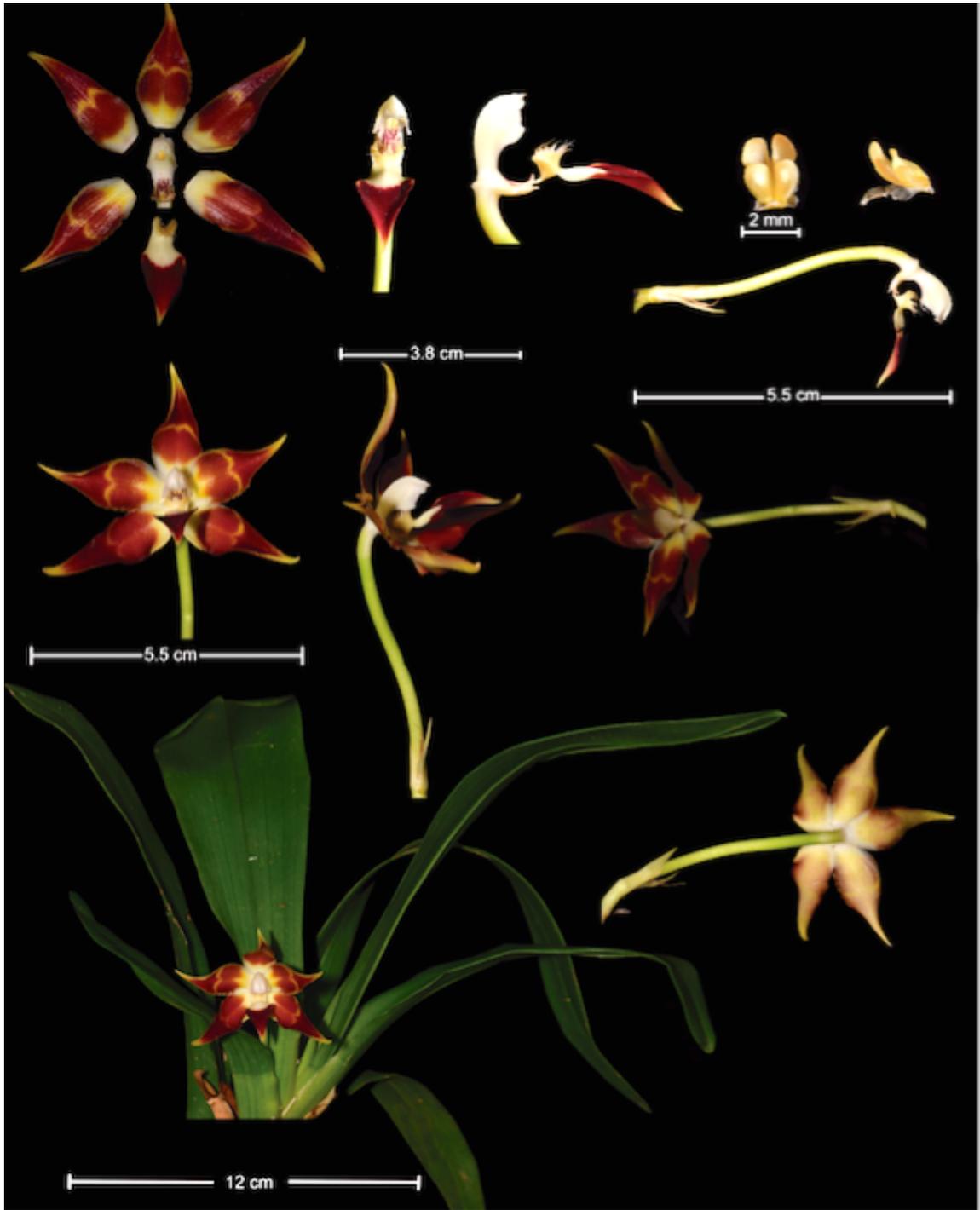
Species is named to recognize the two countries in which it is found.

### Description

Plants caespitose to 28 cm tall; to 5 leaves broadly lanceolate to obovate, obtuse, to 28 cm long, 7 cm wide; flowers on short peduncle, to 7 cm long; floral sheath narrowly lanceolate, acuminate to 2 cm long, 4 mm wide; pedicel to 5 cm long; sepals and petals similar, basally white, shading to yellow and reddish-brown, basally broadly lanceolate, narrowing rapidly towards apex, apex acuminate, to 2.8 cm long, 1.2 cm wide, lateral margin of petals towards base yellow, crenulate; column white, to 2 cm long, 9 mm wide, with white triangular subobtuse column wings; labellum narrowly lanceolate, basally white, reddish-brown towards apex, apex yellow, acute to acuminate, slightly reflexed, to 2.9 cm long, 1 cm wide; crest white, fimbriate, with yellow fimbriae, fimbriae on lateral edges longer than apical fimbriae; anther white.

### Diagnosis

*Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* is similar to the three species listed above. It differs from *H. lucida* in the size of the plant. *Huntleya lucida* is a much smaller plant and the smallest of the three *Huntleya* considered here. In addition, *H. lucida* has narrow yellow column wings with crenulate margins, the labellum is minutely 3-lobed and the apex of the labellum is recurved upwards where *Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* has white triangular column wings, with entire margins, the labellum is not 3-lobed and the apex of the labellum does not recurve abruptly upwards. *Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* differs from *H. apiculata*, which has petals that are broadly ovate at the base, and the column and column wings are green. *Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* has lanceolate sepals and petals and the column and column wings are white. *Huntleya fasciata* is not caespitose but has a rhizome separating each growth and the fimbriae on the crest are yellow. *Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* is caespitose and the fimbriae are white. The main character distinguishing *H. colombovenezuelensis* from the three species of *Huntleya* above and in fact from all the other species of *Huntleya* is the yellow crenulate lateral margin of the petals. The angle of the labellum in relation to the flower is also different in each of the three species.



*Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.



*Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.



*Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.



*Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda.



*Huntleya fasciata* Fowlie.



*Huntleya lucida* (Rolfe) Rolfe.



*Huntleya apiculata* (Rchb. f.) Rolfe.



*Huntleya colombovenezuelensis* Uribe-Velez & Saulea.

## Acknowledgements

All the photographs of the species were taken by the senior author unless noted.

## Literature Cited

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