

A Second New Natural Hybrid of *Encyclia* Hook. (*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea) From Colombia is Described.

Ruben P. Saulea

6442 S. W. 107 Ct., Miami, Fl. 33173

#### ABSTRACT

A second natural hybrid of *Encyclia* Hook. has been discovered in Colombia and is here described.

The genus *Encyclia* Hook. is represented in Mexico by approximately 46 species, in Brazil by approximately 44 species (WCSP, 2018) and in Cuba at present 41 species are known, all with a high number of endemics. In Colombia only 14 species of *Encyclia* have been recognized and one cleistogamous variety (*Encyclia chloroleuca* variety *yotocoensis* Saulea and J. C. Uribe). Natural hybrids are common in the Orchidaceae especially in the genus *Encyclia* (Saulea and Adams, 1984; 1990; Saulea, 2016). However, in Colombia hybrids are rare, only one natural hybrid, *Encyclia xortizii* Saulea and a highly polymorphic species, *Encyclia replicata* (Lindl. & Paxt.) Schltr. (Saulea, 2016a) which appears to be a result of introgression with *Encyclia ceratistes* (Lindl.) Schltr. (Saulea, 2016a) have been reported.

Considering the high biodiversity of Colombia this low number of *Encyclia* species is unusual. In Colombia other genera like *Epidendrum* L. (503 species), *Stelis* Sw. (406 species), *Pleurothallis* R. Br. (205 species), *Maxillaria* Ruiz & Pav. (268 species) have species numbers in the hundreds. One would wonder why Colombia has only 14 species of *Encyclia*. A second natural hybrid of *Encyclia* with *E. ceratistes* has been discovered and is here described.

*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea, hyb. nov.

*Encyclia cordigera* (Kunth) Dressler X *Encyclia ceratistes* (Lindl.) Schltr.

Type: Municipio de Ocaña, Departamento de Norte de Santander, 1200 m., Jorge Luis Aguirre s. n., 2016. (Holotype: HJPU).

This hybrid was discovered near Ocaña, Norte de Santander growing with plants of *E. cordigera*. The plants of *E. cordigera*, in this population, have a marked difference when compared with plants found at the type locality of *E. cordigera* in Venezuela. These plants have darker purple labella and do not have the characteristic white spot on the labellum in front of the column typically found in the plants from Venezuela and also on other isolated populations of *E. cordigera* in Colombia.

## Description

Plant epiphytic, rhizomatous, to 53 cm tall; roots many, thick, canescent; primary stem or rhizome short, stout, creeping, enclosed by imbricating scarious sheaths; secondary stems modified into pseudobulbs, erect, clustered, ovate, to 5.0 cm long, 3.0 cm thick, basally enclosed by scarious sheaths, 2 leaved at apex; leaves coriaceous, conduplicate, linear-lanceolate, acute, to 23 cm long, 2.0 cm wide; inflorescence terminal, to 48 cm tall, peduncles slender, erect, distantly several sheathed, to 15 flowers; floral bracts ovate, obtuse, concave, to 5 mm long, 7 mm wide; ovary pedicellate, slender, to 2.5 cm long; sepals purple basally fading to white, oblanceolate to oblong, acute, to 2.4 cm long, 6 mm wide; petals purple basally fading to white, oblanceolate, acute, to 2.3 cm long, 5 mm wide; labellum basally adnate to column, deeply 3-lobed, to 2.0 cm long, 2.0 cm wide, light purple, with 3 dark purple raised central lines and several lighter lateral lines on disc, lateral lobes pale purple, short oblong, obtuse to subacute, erect, embracing column, apex recurved, disc round, apex appearing slightly acuminate, callosity under column is two white lateral erect keels extending onto disc; column white, basally light green, elongate, to 1.0 cm long, 4 mm wide, with membranaceous incurved rounded auricles; anther yellow.

## Diagnosis

*Encyclia xcordistes* demonstrates characteristics of both parents. It differs from *E. cordigera* by having a smaller labellum which appears to be apically apiculate, with three central and several radiating purple lines and a branched inflorescence. Additionally it differs from *E. cordigera* in the keels under the column. The keels are long, narrow and with slight proturbunces on each side. It differs from *E. ceratistes* by having a light purple labellum, dark purple sepals and petals, and the lateral lobes of the labellum are subobtusate.



*Encyclia cordigera* (Kunth) Dressler  
From type locality of *Encyclia xcordistes*.



*Encyclia ceratistes* (Lindl.) Schltr.  
From type locality of *Encyclia xcordistes*.



*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea.



*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea.





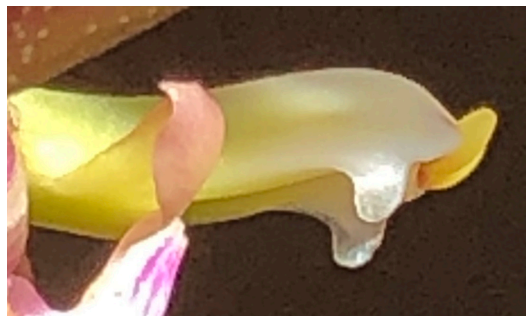
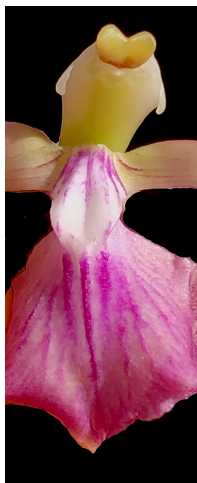
*Encyclia cordigera* (Kunth) Dressler.



*Encyclia ceratistes* (Lindl.) Schltr.



*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea.



*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea. Labellum with raised lines and labellum basally adnate to column.





*Encyclia cordigera* (Kunth) Dressler.



*Encyclia ceratistes* (Lindl.) Schltr.



*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea.



*Encyclia cordigera* (Kunth) Dressler.

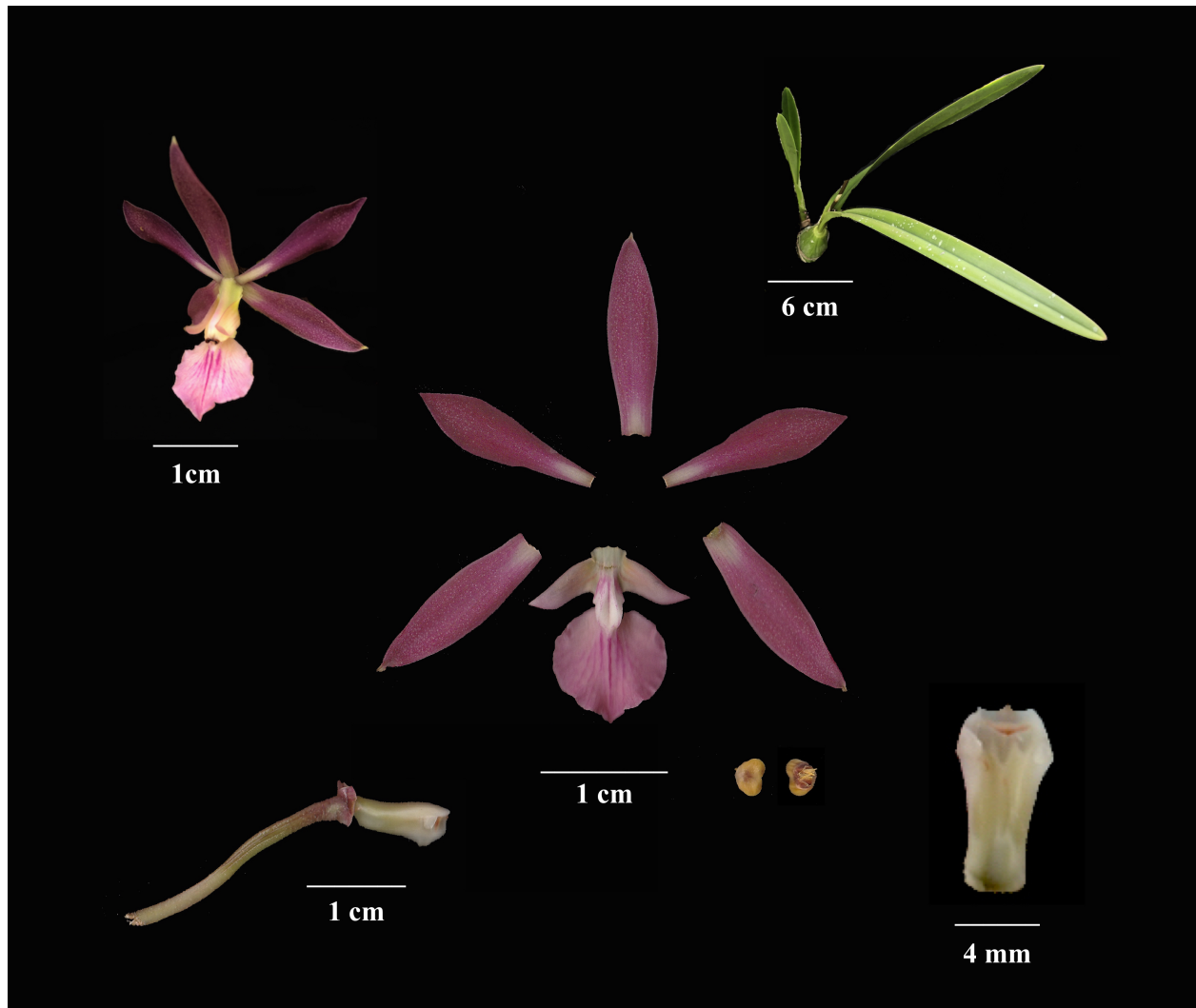


*Encyclia ceratistes* (Lindl.) Schltr.



*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea.





*Encyclia xcordistes* Saulea.



*Encyclia cordigera* collected by the late Alexis Pardo in 1984 near Puerto Cabello, Venezuela (type locality).



## Literature Cited

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