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New World Orchidaceae – Nomenclatural Notes

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*Gongora caucanensis* Sauleda 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 caucanensis* Sauleda and Uribe-Velez is described for Colombia.

Introduction

The genus *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. consists of over 70 species (WCSP, 2018) of which at present 34 are found in Colombia. Recently a number of new species of *Gongora* 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, *Gongora antioquiensis* Uribe-Velez, Sauleda & Szlachetko and *Gongora niesseniae* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez. Classifying the species of *Gongora* can be difficult due to the range of color variation found in many of the species. However, the basic characteristics of the labellum remain constant within each species.

In the department of Cauca, two different species of *Gongora* were discovered growing sympatrically, both of which were undescribed. The first species was described as *Gongora bota-caucanensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez. The second species differs from the known species in the basic elements of the labellum. We here describe it as a new species.

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

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

## Etymology

This new species was named for the type locality, the department of Cauca. It is found in 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. The department of Cauca has a high diversity of microhabitats that has resulted in species richness and endemism. Several species have recently been described from the area, which are new to the flora of Colombia (*Telipogon stinae* Dodson & Dalström, *Telipogon bota-caucanensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda, *Stelis bota-caucanensis* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda, *Scelochilus colombianum* Uribe-Velez & Sauleda and *Gongora bota-caucanensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko & Uribe-Velez).

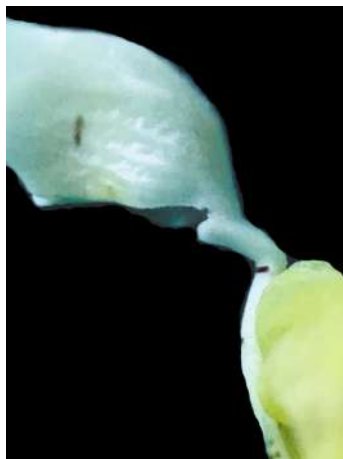
## Diagnosis

*Gongora caucanensis* is sympatric with *Gongora bota-caucanensis* but differs in flower color. The labellum of *G. caucanensis* is white with several minute dark purple spots, it lacks the apical hypochile horns and the sepals and petals are green with minute purple spots. In *G. bota-caucanensis* the labellum is bright yellow with apical hypochile horns and the sepals and petals are yellow with irregular brown-maroon spots..

*Gongora caucanensis* resembles *Gongora aromatica* Rehb. f. and although it has a similar color to some of the color forms, differs in that in *G. aromatica* the labellum is with prominent triangular-ellipsoid horns at the apex of hypochile which are lacking in *Gongora caucanensis*. The bristles of the mesochile are white in *G. aromatica*, where in *G. caucanensis* the bristles terminate in dark reddish-purple.

*Gongora caucanensis* can be compared to *Gongora asceras* Dressler due to that both lack the horns at the apex of the hypochile. However, they differ in all of the other dimensions and shape of the labellum.

*Gongora caucanensis* has two characteristics that quickly distinguish it from many of the other species. First it lacks horns at the apex of the hypochile and has a minute lobe at the base of the labellum.

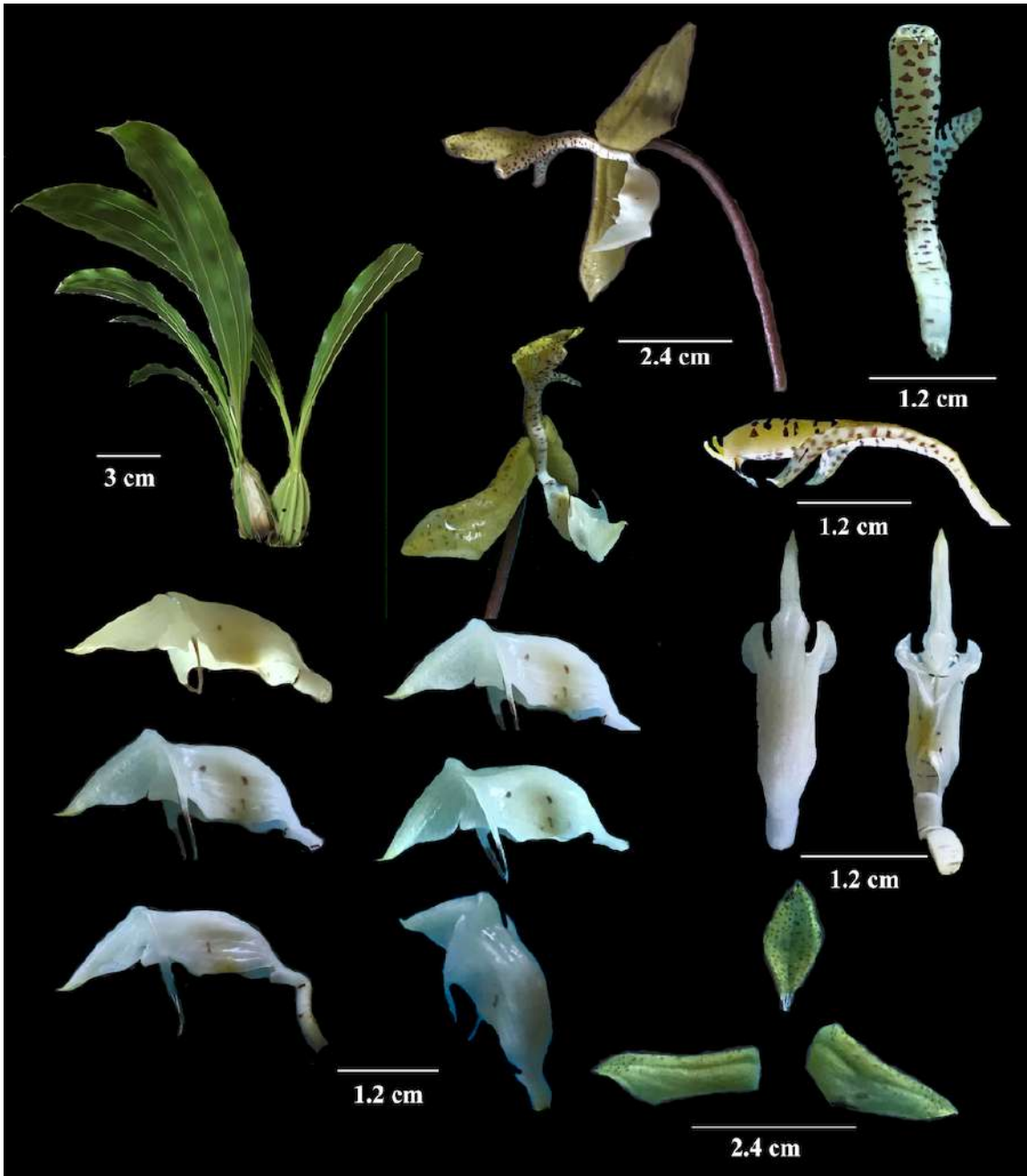


## Description

Plant epiphytic with short rhizomes; pseudobulbs clustered, ovate, ridged, to 4 cm tall, 3 cm wide, bifoliate; leaves petiolate, broadly oblanceolate, acute to acuminate, to 18 cm long, 5 cm wide, petiole to 4 cm long; inflorescence pendent, to 25 cm long, to 19-flowered, floral bracts triangular, appressed, acute, to 2 mm long, 2 mm wide; dorsal sepal green with minute purple spots, elliptic, acute, to 2 cm long, 0.5 cm wide, edges slightly revolute; lateral sepals green with minute purple spots, asymmetrically triangular, truncate, acute, reflexed, with revolute edges, to 2.4 cm long, 0.8 cm wide; petals greenish-yellow, linear, ending in two long acute bristles, to 1.4 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; labellum white with minute purple spots on the hypochile, to 2.4 cm long, 1 cm wide; hypochile without horns; mesochile tips extended and apiculate, terminating in dark purple, hump distinct; epichile apiculate, recurved; column greenish-white with dark reddish-brown spots, curved, to 2.4 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; anther cap green.



*Gongora caucanensis* Sauleda and Uribe-Velez.



*Gongora caucanensis* Sauleda and Uribe-Velez.



*Gongora aceras* Dressler.



*Gongora caucanensis* Sauleda and Uribe-Velez.



*Gongora bota-caucanensis* Sauleda, Szlachetko Uribe-Velez.



*Gongora antioquiensis* Uribe-Velez, and Sauleda & Szlachetko.



*Gongora niesseniae* Sauleda, Szlachetko Uribe-Velez.



*Gongora gloriana* Uribe-Velez, and Sauleda & Szlachetko.



*Gongora aromatica* Rehb. f.



*Gongora chocoensis* Jenny.



**Gongora gloriana**  
**Uribe-Velez, Sauleda &**



**Gongora aromatica** Rchb. f.



**Gongora catilligera** R. Rice



**Gongora chocoensis** Jenny



**Gongora rufescens** Jenny



## Literature Cited

WCSP. 2018. World Checklist Of Selected Plant Families. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet.