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Gongora dabeibaensis Sauleda, J. C. Uribe and Szlachetko (Orchidaceae), an Addition to the Flora of Colombia.

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Abstract

A new species of *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. (Orchidaceae), *Gongora dabeibaensis* Sauleda, J. C. Uribe and Szlachetko is reported for Colombia.

Introduction

The genus *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. consists of over 70 species of which 35 are presently found in Colombia. Although the color will vary in many species the basic characteristics of the labellum remain constant within each species. The shape, location and angle of the basal horns and the shape and size of the hypochile, mesochile and epichile are constant within each species. These characters are responsible in determining the pollinator for the species, which in turn maintains the reproduction isolation among sympatric species of *Gongora*.

A population of *Gongora* was discovered in the department of Antioquia, which differs from the known species in the basic elements of the labellum. We here describe it as a new species.

Gongora dabeibaensis Sauleda, J. C. Uribe and Szlachetko sp. nov.

Type: Ex hort. Niessen and Uribe, s. n., 2023. Cultivated by A. Niessen and J. C. Uribe. Plant collected by Mario Moreno growing epiphytically in the area of Dabeiba, Department of Antioquia, Colombia. (Holotype: HPUJ).

Diagnosis

Gongora dabeibaensis is similar to *Gongora arcuata* G. Gerlach & Toulem. from Colombia Meta, but the basal part of hypochile is saddle-like, while seen from side (vs convex in *G. arcuata*), basal appendages of hypochile are widespread and not touching the upper margin of hypochile (vs rolled-down, exceeding the upper margin of hypochile in *G. arcuata*), apical horns of hypochile are well-separated from the basal epichile projection (vs horns placed on both sides of the epichile projection in *G. arcuata*).

Gongora fulva Lindl. from western Colombia differs from *G. dabeibaensis* by having shorter basal hypochile appendages, a prominent bulge on the lower margin near the middle of hypochile and

apical horns of hypochile placed on both sides of basal epichile projection.

Gongora leucochila Lem. from southern Mexico to Panama differs from *G. dabeibaensis* by the color of the flowers, a longer and narrower hypochile and epichile, and smaller basal epichile projections.

Gongora pleiochroma Rchb. f. a widespread species from Panama to Peru and French Guiana differs from *G. dabeibaensis* by having a longer and more slender hypochile, and prominently longer epichile.

Gongora powellii Schltr. from Panama to northwestern Colombia differs from *G. dabeibaensis* by the proportion of the hypochile and epichile, and by the hypochile apical horns placed on both sides of the basal epichile projection.

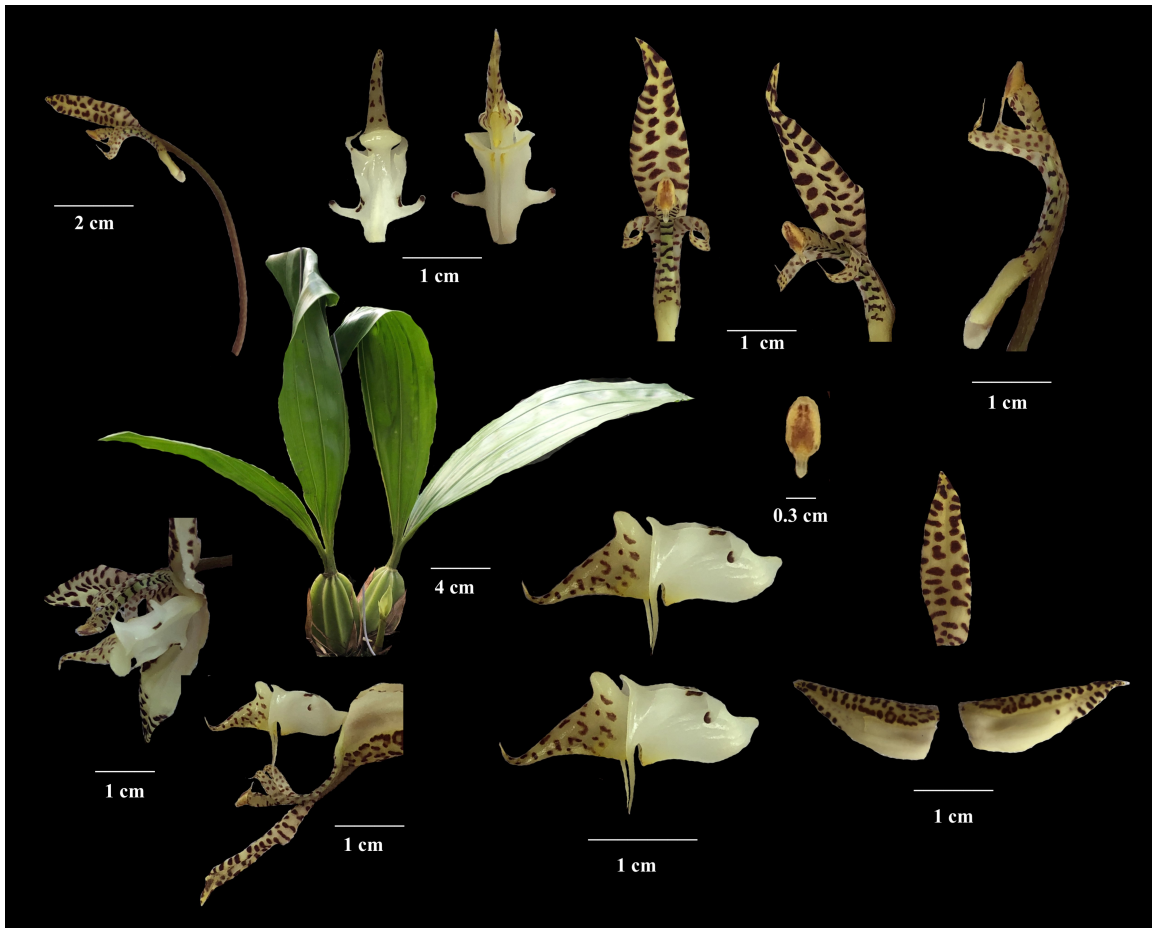
Gongora dabeibaensis is sympatric with *Gongora niesseniae* Saulea, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez in the area of Dabeiba, Department of Antioquia, Colombia. *Gongora dabeibaensis* differs from *G. niesseniae* in color, the position of the hypochile horns and the proportions of the hypochile and epichile.

Description

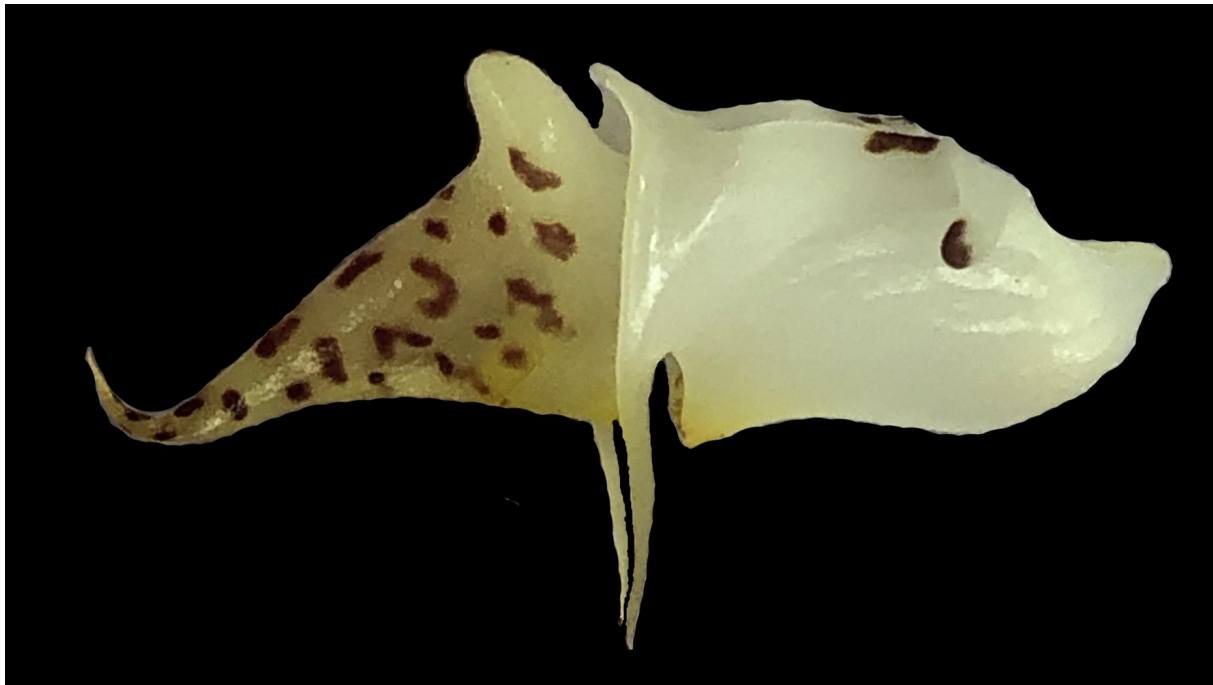
Plant epiphytic with short rhizomes; pseudobulbs clustered, ovate, ridged, to 5 cm tall, 3 cm wide, bifoliate; leaves petiolate, narrowly elliptic, acute, to 21 cm long, 5 cm wide, petiole to 4 cm long; inflorescence pendent, to 35 cm long, to 40-flowered, floral bracts triangular, appressed, acute, to 2 mm long, 2 mm wide; dorsal sepal yellowish-white with brown spots, elliptic, acute, to 2 cm long, 0.5 cm wide, edges slightly revolute; lateral sepals yellowish-white basally with brown spots along the upper 1/3, asymmetrically triangular, truncate, acute, reflexed, with revolute edges, to 2 cm long, 0.8 cm wide; petals yellowish-white, linear, to 1 cm long, 0.3 cm wide, ending in two long acute bristles; labellum yellowish-white, the hypochile to 2.2 cm long, 1 cm wide; hypochile horns yellowish-white with brown tips; mesochile tips extended and apiculate, hump distinct; epichile with brown spots, apiculate, recurved; column yellowish-white with dark brown spots, curved, to 1.4 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; anther cap yellow with central brown suffusion.



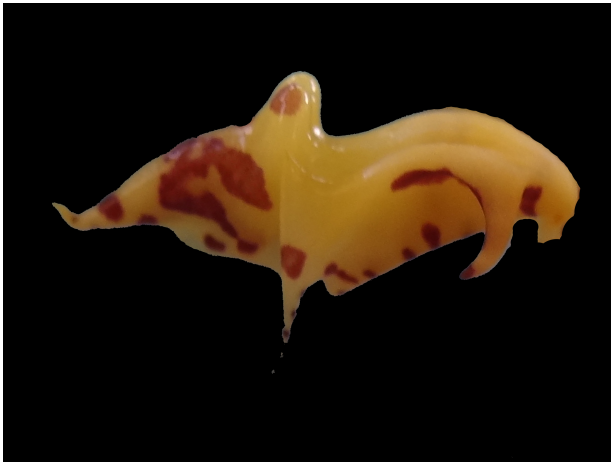
Gongora dabeibaensis Saulea, J. C. Uribe and Szlachetko.



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Gongora dabeibaensis Sauleda, J. C. Uribe and Szlachetko.



Gongora arcuata G. Gerlach & Toulem.



Gongora fulva Lindl.



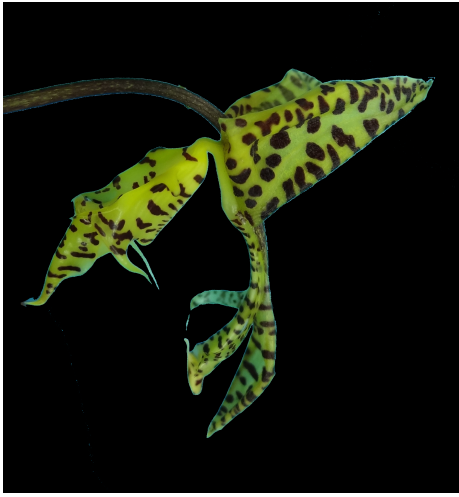
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Gongora arcuata G. Gerlach & Toulem.



Gongora fulva Lindl.



Gongora pleiochroma Rchb.f.



Gongora niesseniae Saulea, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



Gongora powellii Schlechter. Drawing of type from Herb. Schlechter made under supervision of Rudolf Schlechter. AMES-accession-26848.



Gongora leucochila Cl. S.

Gongora leucochila Lem. Lectotype designated by G. A. Salazar in Icon. Orchid. (Mexico) 5-6: text with t. 587 (2003), illustration in Lem., Fl. des Serres 1: t. 37 (1845)].