

A New Species of *Muscarella* Luer (Orchidaceae) is Described for Colombia.

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Abstract

A new species of *Muscarella* Luer (Orchidaceae) is Described for Colombia.

Recently a species of *Pleurothallidinae* was discovered in Colombia, Department of Cauca, from La Bota Caucana, at 1700 m, by Julio Cesar Ordoñez. The species was initially determined to be either a *Specklinia* Lindl. or *Muscarella* Luer. A perusal of the literature found two treatments for the genera.

Kew (WCSP, 2018) recognizes the genera:

Specklinia Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orchid. Pl.: 8 (1830).

Muscarella Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 105: 94 (2006).

The list of Vascular Plant Families and Genera - List of Genera in Orchidaceae at

(<http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/apweb/genera/orchidaceaegen.html>)

recognize *Muscarella* Luer as a synonym of *Specklinia* Lindley.

Several authors recognize *Muscarella* as a distinct genus. Bogarin *et al.* (2013) characterized *Muscarella* as a distinct genus from *Specklinia* by having denticulate, fringed or fimbriate petals and pollinaria with caudicles in contrast to *Specklinia*. Karremans (2014) clearly separates *Muscarella* from *Specklinia* in a key to the genera. *Muscarella* in the key is described as having an inflorescence frequently lax-flexuous, sepals usually caudate, petals fimbriate, acute to caudate, column inornate to narrowly winged. *Specklinia* in the key is described as inflorescence mostly congested-straight, sepals usually not caudate, petals entire to minutely denticulate, infrequently caudate, column ornate, petals elliptic to spatulate, obtuse, column wings rounded, androclinium erose or inornate, labellum mostly linear-ligulate, column wings prominent, pollinia without caudicles.

This species has small, less than 8 mm in diameter flowers, with translucent yellow-greenish concave sepals, fimbriate and aristate petals, a labellum with two short lateral lobes and pollinia with caudicles. These characters agree with the concept of *Muscarella*.

This *Muscarella* species was discovered growing epiphytically 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 region, which resembles a boot.

We here name this new species for the area where it was discovered.

***Muscarella bota-caucanensis* Uribe-Velez and Sauleda, sp. nov.**

Type: Colombia, Department of Cauca, from La Bota Caucana, 1700 m. From cultivation. Collector: Julio Cesar Ordoñez, s. n., 2019, (Holotype: HPUJ).

Diagnosis

Muscarella bota-caucanensis Uribe-Velez and Sauleda is similar to *Muscarella infinita* (Luer) Luer a Bolivian species. The two species differ significantly in the shape of the labellum and construction of the petals. The labellum of *M. infinita* is oblong, rounded, 3-lobed, lateral lobes triangular, acute. The labellum of *M. bota-caucanensis* is oblong becoming broader apex (disc), 3-lobed, lateral lobes obtuse, midlobe is densely pubescent. The petals of *M. infinita* are elliptic-ovate, margin basally fimbriate, aristate. The petals of *M. bota-caucanensis* are linear, basally densely fimbriate, hyaline, aristate.

Description

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, erect, up to 4.5 cm tall; roots slender, flexuous; ramicauls slender, erect, 9 mm long, basally enclosed by several thin, tubular sheaths becoming papery; leaves erect, oblong-elliptic, subacute to obtuse, coriaceous, to 17 mm long, 4 mm wide, base narrowing into a cuneate petiole, to 8 mm long; inflorescence an erect, successively flowered raceme, to 4 cm long, producing up to 6 flowers, produced from the ramicaul, peduncle to 2 cm long, rachis to 2.5 cm long, floral bracts tubular, acute, to 2 mm; pedicel to 5 mm long, ovary to 3 mm long; flowers to 8 mm in diameter, sepals and petals translucent yellow-greenish, hyaline; dorsal and lateral sepals lanceolate, acuminate, concave, entire, to 11 mm long, 2 mm wide; petals linear, basally densely fimbriate, hyaline, to 8 mm long, 2 mm wide; labellum 3-lobed, to 4 mm long, 1 mm wide, lateral lobes obtuse, midlobe fimbriate with two erect parallel keels, disc rhomboid obtuse lateral edges minutely erose rounded, apex slightly revolute, hinged to the column foot; column greenish-yellow, terete, widened apically, arcuate, footed, to 2 mm long, 1 mm wide: anther and rostellum apical; pollinarium with two pyriform pollinia with caudicle.



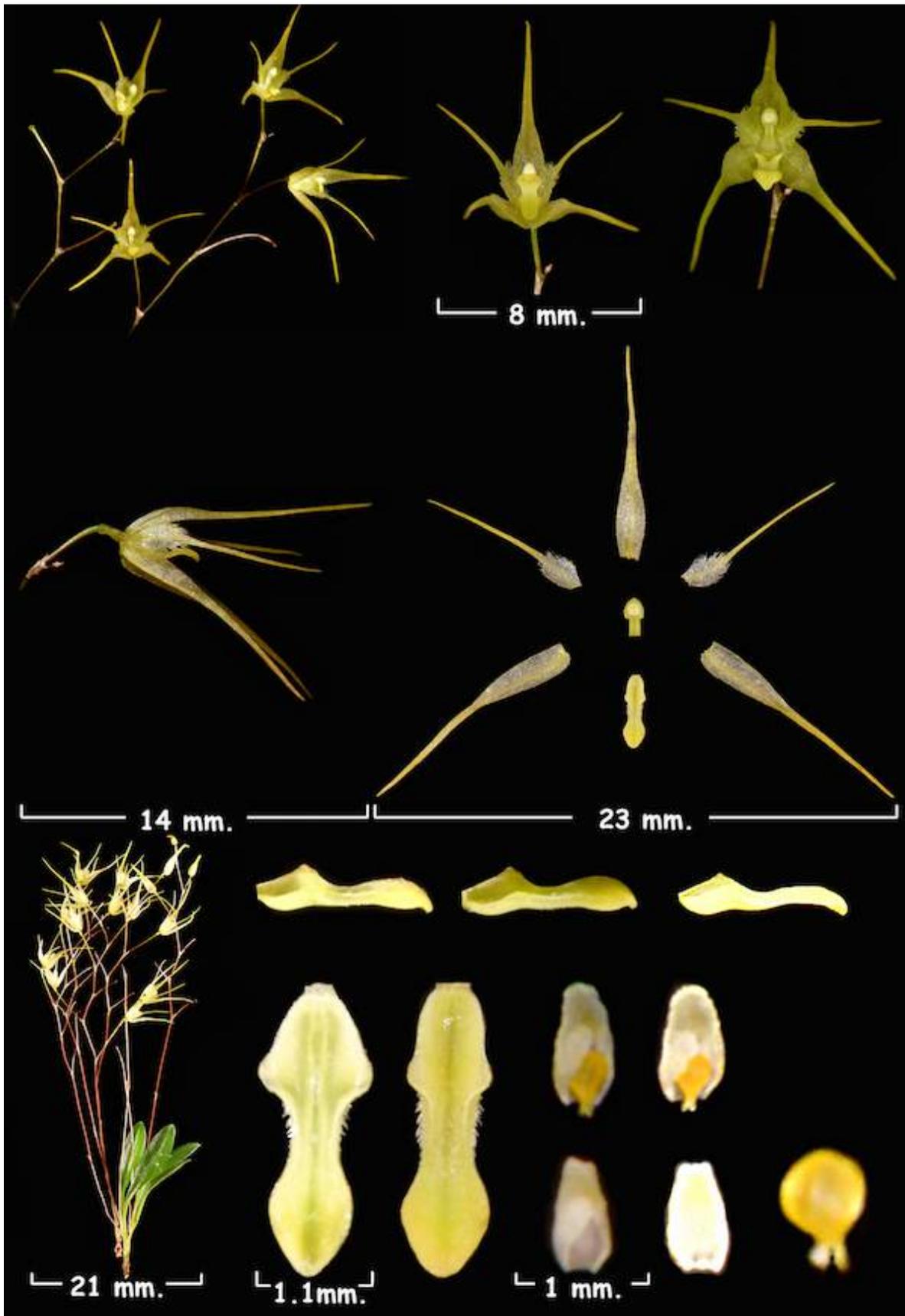
Muscarella bota-caucanensis Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.



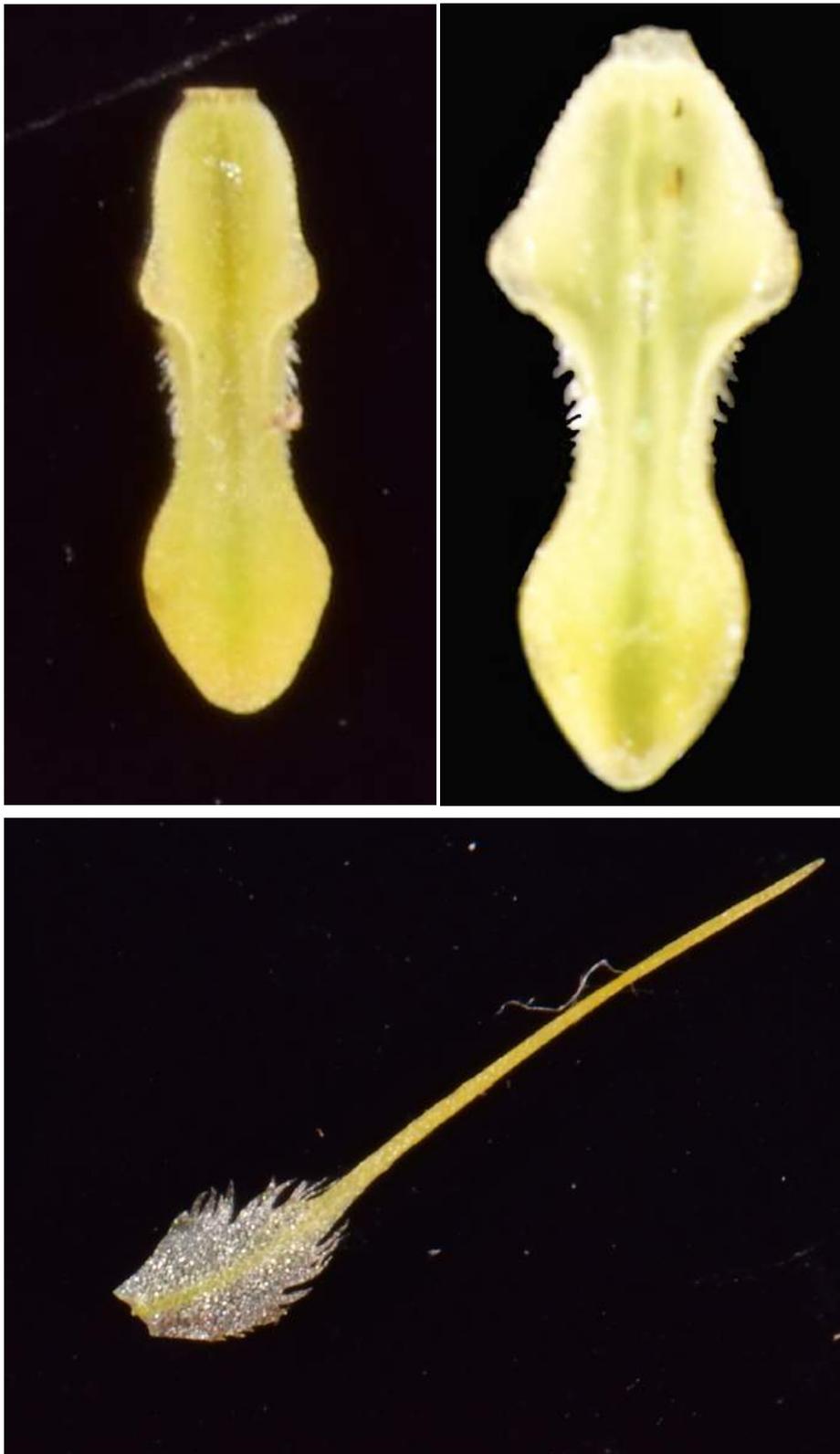
Muscarella bota-caucanensis Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.



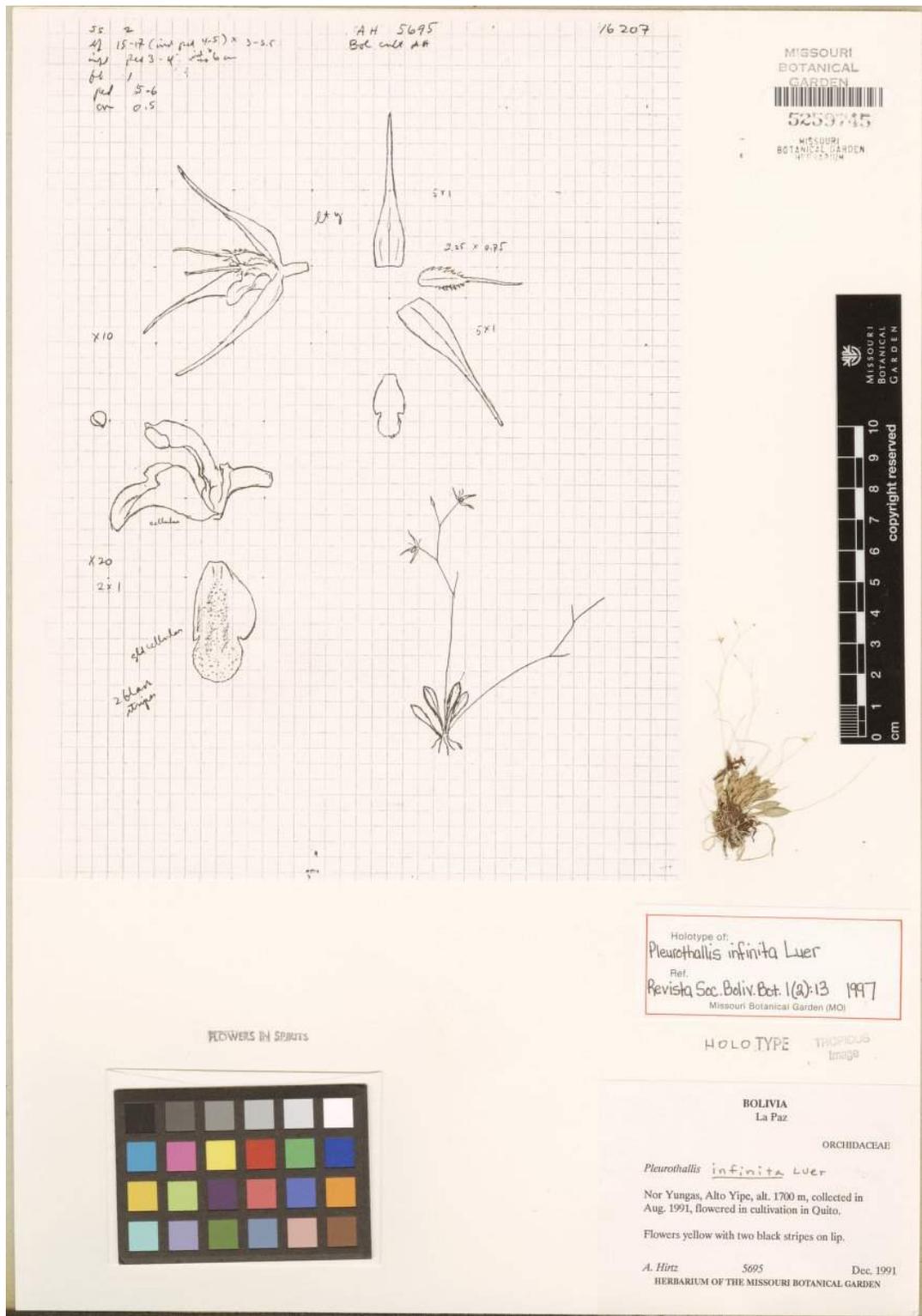
Muscarella bota-caucanensis Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.



Muscarella bota-caucanensis Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.



Labellum and petal of *Muscarella bota-caucanensis* Uribe-Velez and Sauleda.



Holotype: *Pleurothallis infinita* Luer. Revista Soc. Boliv. Bot. 1(2): 13 (1997 publ. 1998).
 Tropicos.org. Missouri Botanical Garden (<http://www.tropicos.org/image/1557>) Photographer: MBG CC-BY-NC.

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