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Gongora niesseniae Sauleda, Szlachetko 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 niesseniae* Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez is reported for Colombia.

Introduction

The genus *Gongora* Ruiz & Pav. consists of over 70 species (WCSP, 2018) of which at present 31 are found in Colombia. Many of the species demonstrate a wide range of color. However, 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 are the main elements that must be considered when classifying the species. These characters are responsible in determining the pollinator for the species, which in turn maintains the reproduction isolation of the species.

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 niesseniae Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez, *sp. nov.*

Type: Ex hort. Niessen and Uribe, *s. n.*, 2022. Cultivated by A. Niessen and J. C. Uribe. Plant collected by Mario Moreno growing epiphytically at 1000 m in the area of Dabeiba, Department of Antioquia, Colombia. (Holotype: HPUJ).

Etymology

This species is named in honor of Andrea Niessen. Andrea and her husband Juan Carlos Uribe, have been researching, reproducing and exporting Colombian orchids for over 25 years at her orchid nursery, Orquideas del Valle. From their headquarters in Cali, Colombia, they manage two orchid nurseries. One for warm growing species in Ginebra, Valle del Cauca and the other in El Barranco, Valle del Cauca for cool growing species. They have a laboratory, which currently contains over 2,500 flasks with mainly Colombian species, many of which are in threat of extinction. Andrea is responsible for the reintroduction of *Cyc. barthiorum* as well as making many other rare species available to the orchid world.

Description

Plant epiphytic, to 35 cm tall with short rhizomes; pseudobulbs clustered, ovate, deeply ridged, to 7 cm tall, 3 cm wide, unifoliate; leaves petiolate, broadly elliptic, subacute, to 28 cm long, 8 cm wide, petiole to 10 cm long; inflorescence pendent, to 35 cm long, to 28 flowered, floral bracts triangular, acute, to 2 mm long, 2 mm wide; flowers bright yellow with maroon spots, dorsal sepal, narrowly lanceolate, acute, to 2.0 cm long, 0.8 cm wide, edges, revolute; lateral sepals, lanceolate, truncate, acute, reflexed, with revolute edges, to 4 cm long, 1.8 cm wide; petals linear, to 1.3 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; labellum clawed, to 2 cm long, 0.8 cm wide; hypochile is cylindrical-conical with truncate apex, hypochile horn is cylindrical subacute, hypochile wings are cylindrical acute and falcate, mesochile tips extended and apiculate, hump distinct; epichile apiculate, recurved; column yellow, obtuse wings at the tip, to 1.5 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; anther cap yellow to 2 mm wide.

Diagnosis

Gongora niesseniae Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez is similar to *Gongora arcuata* Gerlach & Toulem. from Colombian, Department Meta, but with a completely different basic color of the flowers. *Gongora niesseniae* is yellow with a prominently clawed labellum and a long acuminate epichile. *Gongora arcuata* is white with a sessile labellum and the epichile is shortly acute.

Gongora niesseniae is yellow with maroon spotted labellum and tepals, geniculate claw of the labellum and conical-cylindrical hypochile with truncate apex while seen from the side. *Gongora flaveola* Rchb. f. is pure yellow, unspotted, a sigmoidally bent claw and the hypochile is apically oblique.

Gongora niesseniae is similar to *Gongora histrionica* Rchb. f. from Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Guyana. *Gongora niesseniae* differs in the form of the hypochile, which is cylindrical-conical and the widely spread lower horns of the hypochile. *Gongora histrionica* has a hypochile, which is ellipsoid-cylindrical with broadly cuneate base, with an uneven lower and upper part when seen from the side and the horns of the hypochile are more or less parallel to the hypochile.

Gongora pardina Jenny from Colombia and Ecuador is somewhat similar to *Gongora niesseniae*, but differs in having a labellum set on a long sigmoid claw.

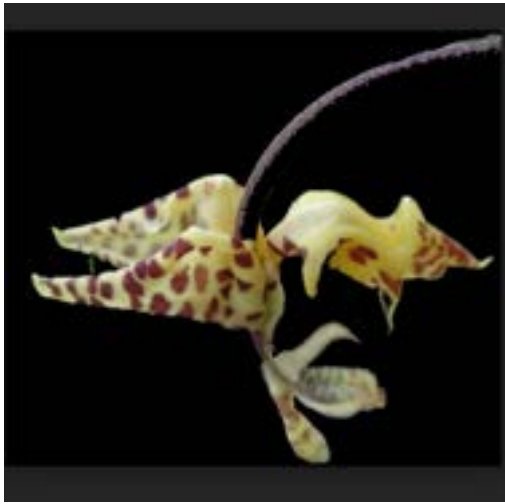
Gongora powellii Schltr. from Panama and northwestern Colombia is similar to *Gongora niesseniae*, but differs in having much larger dots on the tepals and labellum, labellum is subsessile and basal hypochile horns are widely spread.



Gongora niesseniae Sauleda, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



Gongora niesseniae Saulea, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.



Gongora arcuata Gerlach & Toulem.



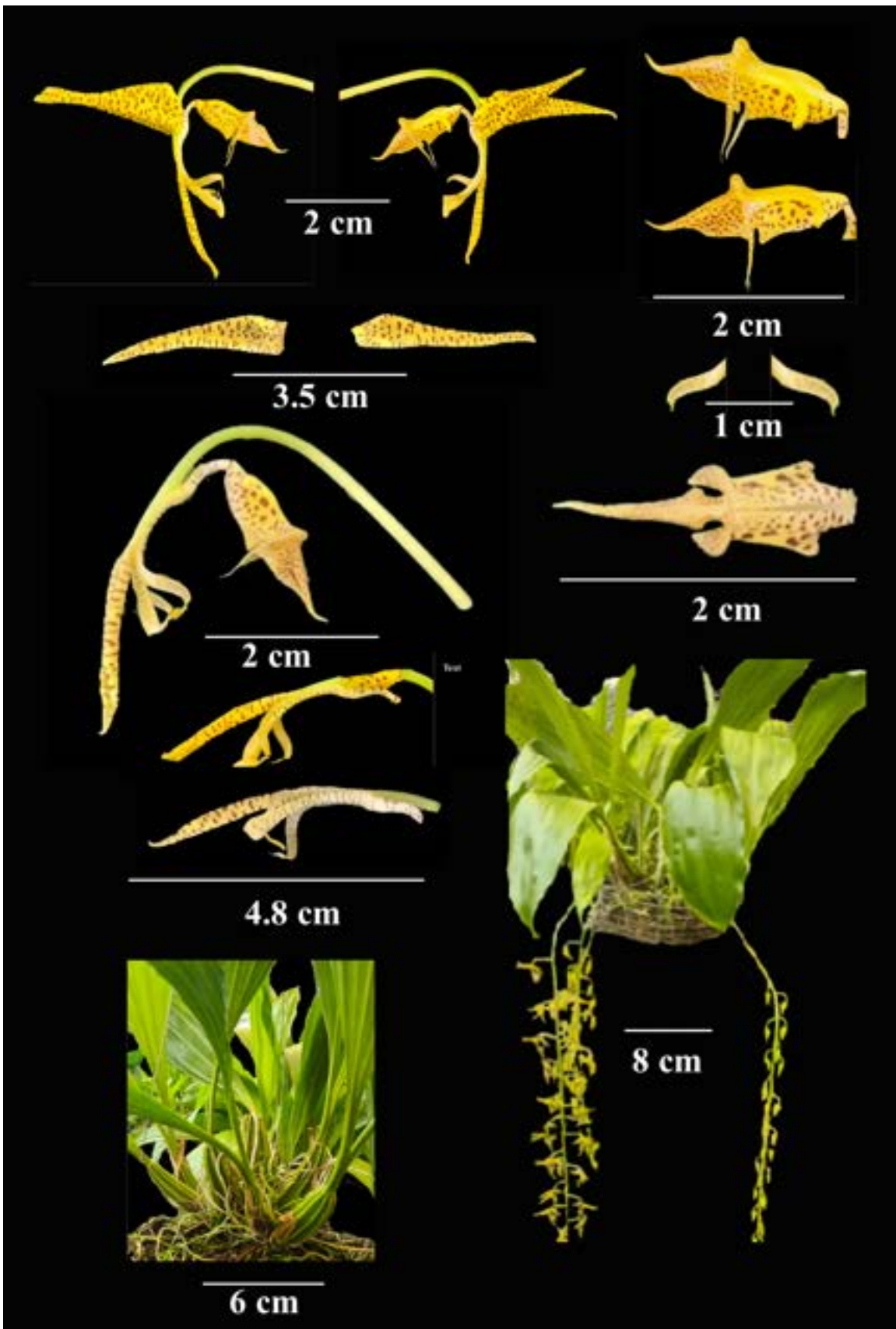
Gongora histrionica Rchb. f.



Gongora flaveola Rchb. f.



Gongora pardina Jenny.



Gongora niesseniae Saulea, Szlachetko and Uribe-Velez.

Acknowledgement

We wish to thank Andrea Niessen, the cultivator, for making this species and the pictures available to us for study.

Literature Cited

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