

Typification of *Encyclia phoenicea* (Lindl.) Neuman

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ABSTRACT: After a careful examination of the specimens of *Epidendrum phoeniceum* Lindl. in the Lindley Herbarium at Kew a holotype was not found. This paper designates a lectotype for *Encyclia phoenicea* (Lindl.) Neuman.

Encyclia phoenicea (Lindl.) Neuman is a very popular encyclia in cultivation. It is the best known of the Cuban encyclias and has been used for breeding many times. However, there is a question as to its typification.

Lindley's original description of *Epidendrum phoeniceum* (Edward's Botanical Register 27: Miscellaneous Notices, page 57, no. 120. July, 1841.) was made from a plant given to him by Loddiges for identification.

Lindley's next reference to *E. phoeniceum* Lindl. is in the same year (December, 1841), in *Sertum Orchidaceum* where he publishes a plate (no. 46, Dec. 1841) of this species and he cites the original description in Edward's Botanical Register based on the plant introduced by Loddiges.

In 1846 Lindley in *Orchidaceae Lindenianae*, quotes from Linden's notes a reference to *E. phoeniceum* Lindl.: "Epiphytic, in the forests of Guantanamo, in the island of Cuba; July and August, 1844".

In *Folia Orchidacea* (January 1853) Lindley lists *Epidendrum phoeniceum* Lindl. and cites the protolog in Edward's Botanical Register, the plate in *Sertum Orchidaceum*, (plate 46) and cites the Linden specimen now in the Lindley herbarium: *Wild in Cuba; in the forests of Guantanamo - Linden.* (K-L).

In the Lindley herbarium (K-L) there are two specimens of *Epidendrum phoeniceum* Lindl. Neither specimen is annotated by Lindley as the holotype. One specimen is the specimen cited by Lindley in *Orchidaceae Lindenianae* (1846) and *Folia Orchidacea* (January 1853) collected by Linden in Cuba and has a date of July - August, 1844. This date is three years after Lindley described the species. We know that Linden explored Cuba in 1844 for 6 months. He left the island on October for the US and returned to Europe on December 1844 (Ceulemans 2006). He must have collected this specimen on this trip. The specimen is annotated by Lindley (Borosova, personal communication) on the lower right hand corner, *E. phoeniceum*, however, Lindley could not have seen this specimen in 1841. For this reason we are not considering this specimen as the holotype.

The second specimen was collected by Wright (No. 1492) in Jan-Jul. 1859. This date would exclude it from consideration as a specimen Lindley saw when he originally described the species.

We are designating the original illustration by Sara Ann Drake at Kew used for the plate published in *Sertum Orchidaceum* (no. 46, December, 1841) as the lectotype. This is the first material available that we know that Lindley saw. The illustration is annotated in Lindley's handwriting "*Epidendrum phoeniceum*". It clearly shows the characteristics that define *E. phoeniceum* Lindl. One of the most important characteristics is that the keels come to an abrupt end under the column. This is clearly visible on the illustration.

Encyclia phoenicea (Lindley) Neumann, *Revue Horticole* ser. 2, 4: 137. 1845-1846;

Epidendrum phoeniceum Lindley, *Edward's Botanical Register* 27:

Miscellaneous Notices 57. 1841.

Lectotype (here designated): Original illustration by Sara Ann Drake at Kew used for the plate reproduced in *Sertum Orchidaceum*, no. 46, Dec. 1841.



Original illustration of *Epidendrum phoeniceum* Lindl. by Sara Ann Drake at Kew used for the plate reproduced in *Sertum Orchidaceum*, no. 46, Dec. 1841.

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Encyclia phoenicea (Lindl.) Neuman from Cuba.



Encyclia phoenicea (Lindl.) Neuman from Cayman Islands.



Encyclia phoenicea (Lindl.) Neuman from Cayman Islands.



Encyclia phoenicea (Lindl.) Neuman from Cuba.



Variation in Cuban *Encyclia phoenicea* (Lindl.) Neuman.