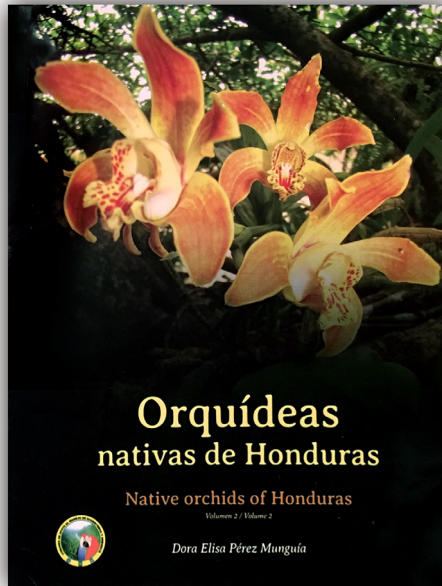


## BOOKS

Pérez Munguía, D. E. 2015. **Orquídeas nativas de Honduras. Native orchids of Honduras. Volumen 2 / Volume 2.** Texts in Spanish and English. 167 pages, 225 color photographs. Paperback with dust jacket, 28 x 22 cm. Tegucigalpa. [Imgrasa]. Price not indicated. Available with the author at [doraelisa.perez53@gmail.com](mailto:doraelisa.perez53@gmail.com).



We reviewed the first volume of this work in the last issue of the journal, last year, probably when this second volume was just being released by the press. The most obvious novelty of the second part of Pérez Munguía's work is that the texts are now bilingual, broadening the base of possible readers interested in the less known orchid flora of Honduras.

Following the format of the first volume, the book begins with a short presentation of the Armed Forces of Honduras, which have among their missions and which sponsored the publication of this work. Another short introduction discusses the suggestions received and the renewed interest in Honduras in updating the knowledge about the native orchid flora, after the publication of the first tome of this work. The taxonomic treatment, strictly following the format of the first release, presents a total of 53 species in 39 genera. A glossary of terms and a suggested bibliography conclude the volume.

Among the illustrated taxa, the author claims for some new records for the orchid flora of Honduras,

including both new genera (*Oestlundia*, with *O. luteorosea*) and new species: *Chysis tricolorata* (which, however, was first recorded by Siegerist, 1984), *Coelia triptera*, and a un-named species of *Coryanthes*. The photographs of *Trichopilia turialbae*, considered by the author as a new record for the country, illustrate indeed *T. tortilis*, previously reported for the country by several students. Of particular interest are the photographs of a species of *Coryanthes* from the Department of Comayagua, superficially similar to a pure yellow form of *C. picturata*, which the author considers the first record for Honduras of *C. gracilis*\*, but that could easily be a new taxon for this genus. Also particularly useful is the first published photographs of *Ornithocephalus numenius* (based on a type from Honduras). *Specklinia endotrachys* (treated as *Empusella*)

\* The name *Coryanthes gracilis* was never validly published, but just proposed by Gerlach as a provisional name, with neither Latin description nor type designation (Gerlach & Schill 1993). Whatever the Honduran specimen would be, this name can not be used for it.

appears very similar and it is probably the same as *S. spectabilis*, a species based on a Panamanian type, which has been previously documented from Mexico.

In general, however, the photographs are of uneven quality, and the use of a double-pagination layout for the two languages obliged the graphic designer at re-using several times the same images in different cuts and enlargements.

My mayor criticism to the work is the confusing use of several nomenclatural frameworks at once. So, for example, *Trichocentrum* is used *sensu lato* to include species of *Lophiaris*, but *Cohniella* is treated as a distinct genus. *Pleurothallis* is treated in a very broad (and untenable) sense, including species of *Specklinia* (which in other cases are included in the equally untenable genus *Empusella*) and *Stelis*, but excluding *Acian-*

*thera*, which is considered as a valid taxon. Species of *Prosthechea* are treated under *Anacheilium*, *Panarica* and *Pollardia*, and *Epidanthus* is maintained separate from *Epidendrum*.

This mixed nomenclature makes more difficult the use of an otherwise informative work, which has the great merit of presenting photographs and data based on true Honduran plants, most of which were found and photographed *in situ* by the author herself.

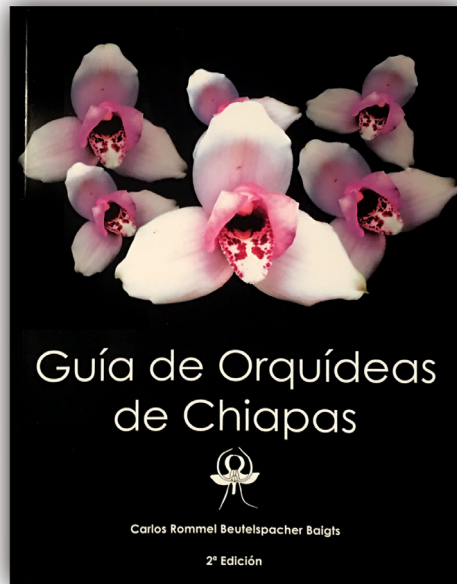
*Franco Pupulin*

Gerlach G. & Schill R. (1993). Die Gattung *Coryanthes* Hook. (Orchidaceae). *Tropische und subtropische Pflanzenwelt*, 83, 1-205.

Siegerist E. S. (1984). Herbarium specimens of the Orchidaceae of Central America - A checklist. *Selbyana*, 7(2/4), 281-311.



Beutelspacher Baigts, C. R. 2013. **Guía de Orquídeas de Chiapas**. 2ª Edición. Texts in Spanish. 187 pages, 277 color photographs, 2 maps. Paperback with dust jacket, 21.5 x 16.5 cm. Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Consejo de Ciencia y Tecnología del Estado de Chiapas. Price not indicated. Available with the printer at [www.cocytech.gob.mx](http://www.cocytech.gob.mx).



I confess that I was unaware of the existence of a first edition of this informative work, an edition of only 1,000 books that was published by the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas in August of 2011 and sold out completely by December of that same year. Meanwhile, the author managed to augment the original list

of 703 orchid species recorded for the Mexican State of Chiapas to the actual 723, improving some photographs and including, where possible, several photos of the same species to show the expected variation in selected taxa (i.e., *Maxillaria variabilis* [treated under *Maxillariella*] and *Sacolia lanceolata*).

This compact and well-conceived book offers an ample, detailed, and updated overview of the orchid diversity in one of the richest biological regions of the country, totalling 723 species in 161 genera (oh, well, we know that genera are debatable...), which correspond to more than 60% of the entire orchid flora of Mexico (according to Soto-Arenas *et al.* 2007), and almost doubles the number of species previously recorded from the equally rich, adjacent State of Oaxaca (Soto-Arenas & Salazar 2004).

The treatment begins with a classical chapter about “What orchids are?”, which includes several elements of modern science, and a detailed chapter on the physical and climatic geography of Chiapas, discussing the mayor elements of the seven main phytogeographic regions within the State (Pacific Coastal Plains, Sierra Madre, Central Depression, Chiapas’ Heights, Eastern Mountains, Northern Mountains, and Gulf Coastal Plains). After the main, central chapter of the “guide”, the book ends with an extensive chapter (20 pages) on orchid care, an updated checklist of the orchids of Chiapas, a general bibliography, and a glossary.

The guide itself is mostly a photographic presentation, arranged alphabetically, with extensive captions to the images that include information on the plants habit (mostly not shown) and their phenology. Most of the photographs are of high quality (and perfectly printed), making the use of the guide a pleasure and the identification of the species an easy task.

Several of the portrayed species are rarely seen in publications, and less familiar to the students outside the Mexican region, like *Acianthera obscura*, the white form of *Bletia parkinsonii*, *Dryadella lineariifolia*, *Epidendrum alvarezdeltoroi*, *E. incomptoides*,

*E. veroscriptum*, *Masdevallia adamsii*, *Rhyncho스테le pygmaea*, and *Specklinia blancoi*, among others.

The old “*Oncidium ornithorrhynchum*” from Central America is treated as *O. sotoanum*, a name well-discussed and documented by Jiménez Machorro and Hágsater in 2009, instead of *O. javieri*, a name that predated it by ten years (Archila 1999, Monzón *et al.* 2015). Apparently, also Beutelspacher Baigts was not informed about the existence of this name.

The “Guía de Orquídeas de Chiapsa” is a highly recommendable publication presenting the most updated information about the orchid flora of this region, a represents a valid visual introduction to the diversity of the family in southern Mexico.

Franco Pupulin

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