

Ruben P. Sauleda¹, Andrea Niessen² and Juan Carlos Uribe².

¹6442 SW 107 Ct., Miami, FL. 33173.

²Calle 10 N # 9N-31. Cali, Colombia.

A New Natural Intergeneric Hybrid of *xCattlianthe* J. M. H. Shaw (Orchidaceae) is Described for Colombia.

Abstract

A new natural intergeneric hybrid of *Guarianthe hennisiana* (Rolfe) Van den Berg and *Cattleya warscewiczii* Rchb. f. (Orchidaceae) is described from the Department of Antioquia, Colombia.

Hybridization is common, occurring in 25% of plant species (Baack et. al., 2007). Stebbins (1950) stated, “Occasional hybridization between recognizable species ... is the rule in flowering plants” and suspected that certain groups of plants produced hybrids more than others (Stebbins, 1959). Natural hybrids and hybrid swarms are especially common in the genus *Encyclia* Hook. However, only one natural hybrid of *Encyclia* Hooker, *Encyclia xortizii* Sauleda and one well known natural hybrid of *Cattleya* Lindl., *Cattleya xhardyana* Sander have been reported for Colombia. In the genera *Encyclia* and *Cattleya*, Colombia does not appear to have many natural hybrids in these genera. Possibly as more natural areas are explored and the orchid flora of Colombia becomes better known, more natural hybrids will be discovered.

Plants of a natural hybrid of *Guarianthe hennisiana* (Rolfe) Van den Berg and *Cattleya warscewiczii* Rchb. f. have been found in several areas where both species are sympatric. The plant described here is from the area of Dabeiba. Additional plants have been observed in the areas of Cañasgordas and Urabá.

This new natural intergeneric hybrid (nothotaxon) is here described.

***xCattlianthe dabeibaensis* Sauleda, R. P., A. Niessen and J. C. Uribe, nat. hyb. nov.**

Guarianthe hennisiana (Rolfe) Van den Berg (Syn. *Cattleya patinii* Cogn.) x
Cattleya warscewiczii Rchb. f

Type: Ex hort. Niessen and Uribe, *s. n.*, 2016. Cultivated by A. Niessen and J. C. Uribe. Plant originally found growing with *C. warscewiczii* in the area of Dabeiba, Department of Antioquia, Colombia. (Holotype: HPUJ).

Diagnosis

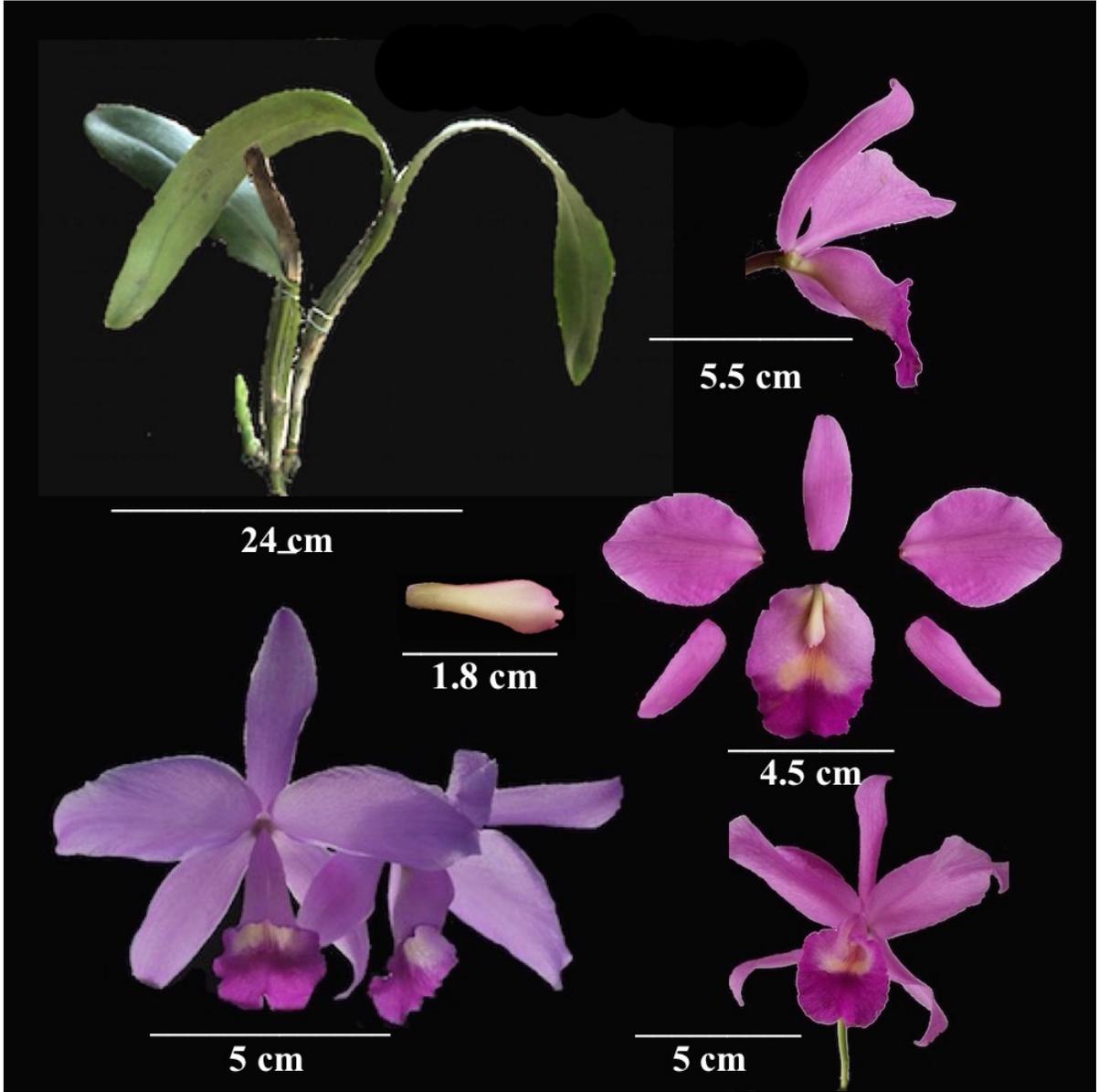
Plants of *xCattlianthe dabeibaensis* Sauleda, Niessen and Uribe have both unifoliate growths, typical of *Cattleya warscewiczii* Rchb. f and bifoliate growths, typical of *Guarianthe hennisiana*, on the same plant. Height of the hybrid is intermediate between the parents. The bifoliate leaves of the hybrid are longer than *G. hennisiana* and the unifoliate leaves of the hybrid are wider and shorter than *C. warscewiczii*. The flowers of *xCattlianthe dabeibaensis* are smaller than *C. warscewiczii* but larger than *G. hennisiana*. The petals are similar to *C. warscewiczii*, which are much larger than *G. hennisiana*. The labellum resembles *G. hennisiana* in shape but is longer, resembling *C. warscewiczii*. The characteristic spots of *C. warscewiczii* on the disc of the labellum are present in most morphs of the hybrid.

Description

Plant epiphytic, rhizomatous, to 30 cm tall; roots many, thick, canescent; primary stem or rhizome short, stout, creeping, enclosed by imbricating scarios sheaths; secondary stems modified into pseudobulbs, erect, clustered, linear oblanceolate to 28 cm long, x 4 cm thick, basally enclosed by scarios sheaths, 1 to 2 leaved at apex; leaves coriaceous, stiff, linear-lanceolate, obtuse, to 24 cm long, 5 cm wide; inflorescence terminal, to 20 cm tall, peduncles slender, erect, distantly several sheathed, to 8 flowers; flowers purple; floral sheath to 8 cm tall, 2.5 cm wide; floral bracts ovate, acute, concave, to 6 mm long, x 3 mm wide; ovary pedicellate, slender, to 6 cm long; sepals purple, elliptic, obtuse, to 4.0 cm long, 2 cm wide; petals purple obovate, obtuse, to 4.5 cm long 4.0 cm wide; labellum free from column, elliptic, to 4.5 cm long, 3.5 cm wide, basally light to dark purple, apically dark purple, with two light yellow spots in front of column; column white or flushed with light purple at edges, basally light green, elongate, to 1.8 cm long, 6 mm wide; anther yellow rarely white.



xCattlianthe dabeibaensis Sauleda, Niessen and Uribe.



xCattlianthe dabeibaensis Sauleda, Niessen and Uribe.



Guarianthe hennisiana (Rolfe) Van den Berg.



Cattleya warszewiczii Rchb. f.



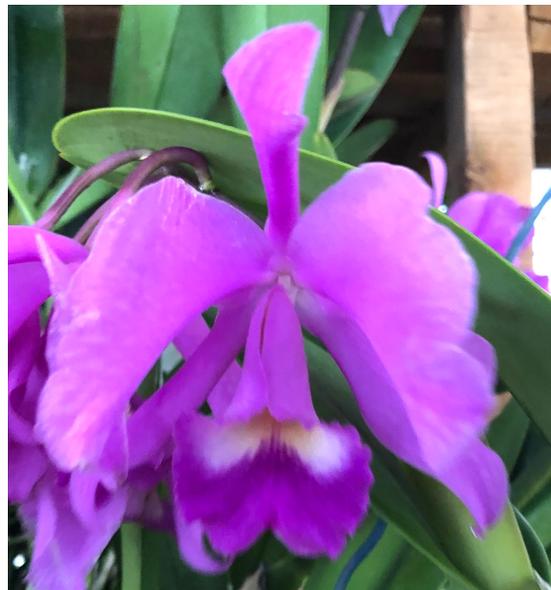
xCattlianthe dabeibaensis Sauleda, Niessen and Uribe.



xCattlianthe dabeibaensis Saulea, Niessen and Uribe with flowers and plant resembling more closely *Guarianthe hennisiana* (Rolfe) Van den Berg.



xCattlianthe dabeibaensis Sauleda, Niessen and Uribe with flower resembling *Guarianthe hennisiana* (Rolfe) Van den Berg.



Additional clones of *xCattlianthe dabeibaensis* Sauleda, Niessen and Uribe.

Literature Cited

Baack, Eric J. and L. H. Rieseberg. 2007. A genomic view of introgression and hybrid speciation. *Curr. Opin. Genet. Dev.* 17(6): 513–518.

Stebbins, G. L. 1950. *Variation and Evolution in Plants*. Columbia University Press, New York, NY.

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