

# *Renzorchis* (Orchidaceae, Habenariinae), a new genus from Gabon

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## KEY WORDS

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## ABSTRACT

A new genus of the subtribe Habenariinae (Orchidaceae), *Renzorchis* Szlach. & Olsz., is described and illustrated. Its taxonomic position is briefly discussed.

## MOTS CLÉS

Orchidaceae,  
*Renzorchis*,  
taxonomie,  
Gabon.

## RÉSUMÉ

Un nouveau genre de la sous-tribu des Habenariinae (Orchidaceae), *Renzorchis* Szlach. & Olsz., est décrit et illustré. Sa position taxonomique est brièvement discutée.

According to DRESSLER (1993), the subtribe Habenariinae Benth. (Orchidoideae, Orchideae) includes 932 species and 23 genera. While examining materials to the book on the gynostemium structure in the order Orchidales the senior author came to the conclusion that this group, as many others, is highly polymorphic. Based on the gynostemium morphology, SZLACHETKO (1995) proposed to distribute genera included in Habenariinae *sensu* DRESSLER (1993) between Herminiinae Szlach., Androcorytinae Schltr., Platantherinae Schltr. and Habenariinae *sensu stricto*. We are aware that such genera as *Habenaria* Willd. and *Cynorkis* Thouars are poly-

morphic themselves, at least as considers the gynostemium and flower morphology, and require taxonomic revisions.

The gynostemium structure in Habenariinae can be defined as follow: stigma bilobed, stalked, forming stigmaphores with the most apical parts fertile; rostellum 3-lobed, both lateral lobes elongated into rostellophores, terminated usually by massive, firm viscidia. Anther with the basal parts forming antherophores, becoming connected apically with rostellophores.

While studying herbarium materials from Gabon we found specimens which looks like *Platycoryne* Rchb. f. After detailed examination,

however, it was obvious that our plants are not *Platycoryne*, and even more, they are not closely related to this genus.

The unique feature of our orchid is the gynostemium structure. Rostellum is 3-lobed, with very long and massive side lobes. Noteworthy is that they produce two small viscidia in their half length. Antherophores are narrow and distinctly shorter than rostellophores, adnate to them mesotonically. In our opinion all these give good background for establishing a new genus for these interesting plants from Gabon.

**RENZORCHIS** Szlach. & Olsz., **gen. nov.**

*Ab omnibus generibus subtribus Habenariinae structura gynostemio differt: rostellum trilobatum lobis laterali-bus longis, solidis pendulisque viscidia minores in medio formanti; antherophori distincte breviores quam rostellophori in modo mesotonico connati.*

TYPE.—*Renzorchis pseudoplatycoryne* Szlach. & Olsz.

ETYMOLOGY.—Named in honour of Dr. Jany RENZ, Basel, an eminent specialist of Habenariinae.

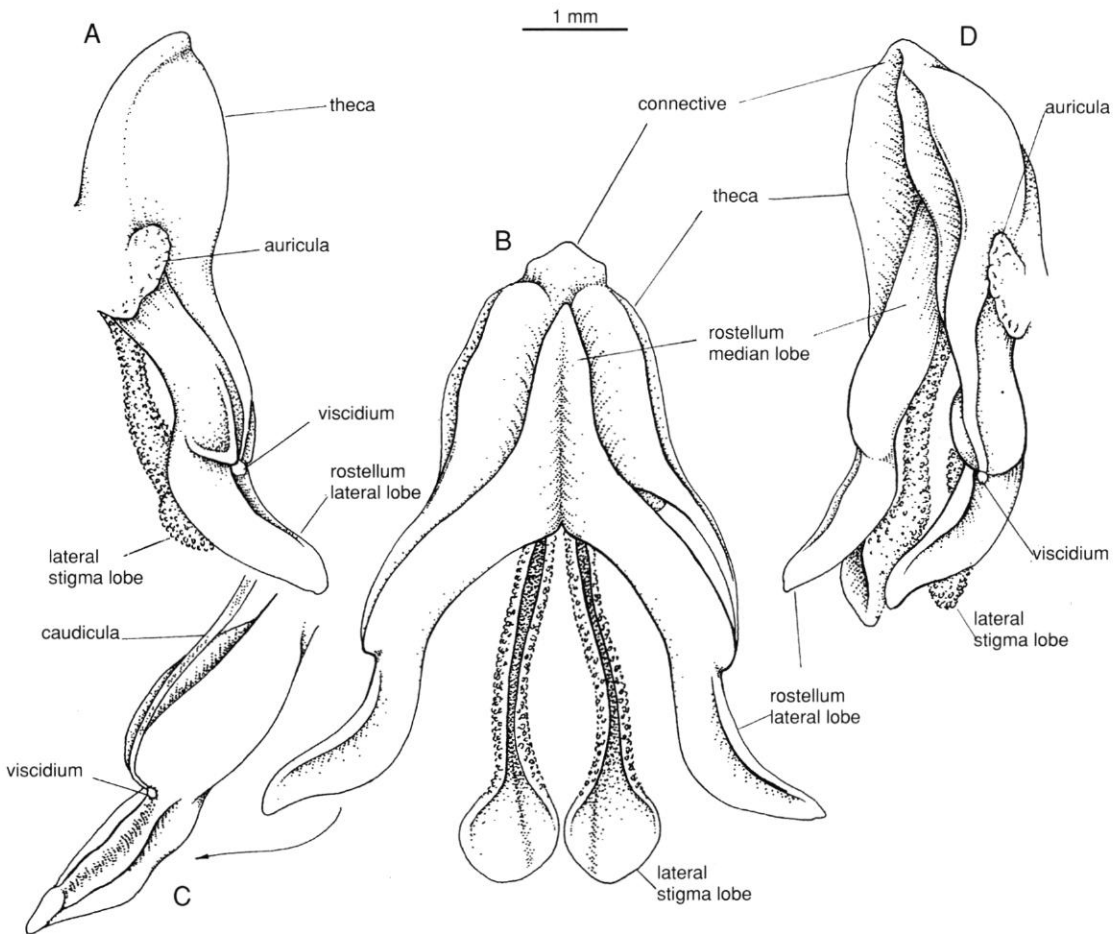


Fig. 1.—The gynostemium structure of the genus *Renzorchis* Szlach. & Olsz.: **A**, side view; **B**, front view, spread; **C**, apical part of rostellophore and antherophore; **D**, front view. (SZLACHETKO & RUTKOWSKI, in prep.).

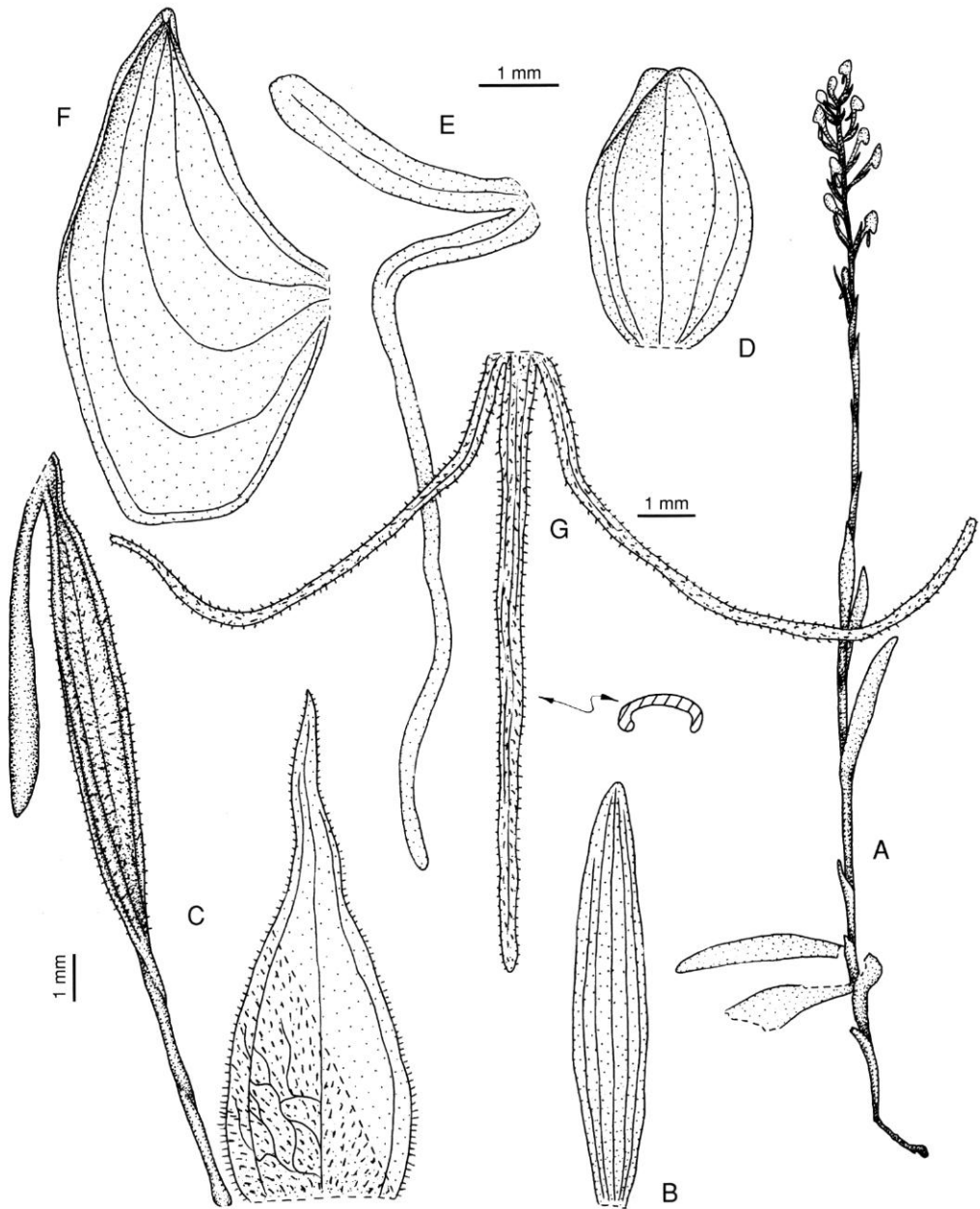


Fig. 2.—*Renzorchis pseudoplatycoryne* Szlach. & Olsz.: **A**, habit; **B**, leaf; **C**, floral bract, spur, ovary and pedicel; **D**, dorsal sepal; **E**, petal; **F**, lateral sepal; **G**, lip.

The genus *Renzorchis* includes a sole species.

***Renzorchis pseudoplatycoryne* Szlach. & Olsz.,  
sp. nov.**

*Species unica generis, a habitu generi Platycoryne similis, sed labello trilobato, lobis laciniatis ciliatisque, petalo fere ad basin dissecto in segmentis inaequalibus duobus et calcare distincte breviori quam ovario pedunculoque.*

TYPE.—*Thollon s.n.*, Gabon (holo-, P).

Plants 35-39 cm tall, erect, glabrous. Leaves 7-8, distributed in the lower third of the stem, up to 7 cm long and to 1.5 cm wide, linear-lanceolate, acute, erect-ascending, passed apically in the culine bracts. Cauline bracts 4-6, up to 2.5(4) cm long, herbaceous, acute, as long as the internodes, apical bracts ciliate along margins. Spike 9-10 cm long, 13-17-flowered, rather lax, multilateral. Flowers rather small, resupinate. Floral bracts 12 mm long, ovate with lanceolate apex, 3-nerved, herbaceous, densely glandular along margins and on adaxial surface, glabrous on abaxial surface. Pedicel 7 mm long, erect, twisted, glabrous. Ovary 11 mm long, papillate. Sepals thin, thickened at apices, glabrous. Dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, cucullate, with 3, branched nerves. Lateral sepals 7.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, oblique ovate, with acute apex, asymmetric. Petals glabrous, unequally bipartite; the upper part 4 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, linear, obtuse, single-nerved; the lower part 11 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, linear, obtuse. Lip 3-lobed, minutely pubescent; lobes divided up to the base; the middle one 11 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, linear, obtuse, 3-nerved; side lobes 9 mm long,

0.3 mm wide, thread-like, obtuse, single-nerved. Spur 7 mm long, narrowly cylindrical-clavate, subacute. Gynostemium sessile. Anther ca. 4 mm long, connective narrow, apical parts of thecae parallel, spreading basally. Antherophores half as long as rostellophores, apically adnate to them. Rostellum 3-lobed, the middle one shorter than connective, triangular, massive; side lobes finger-like, slightly sigmoid, produce viscidia mesotonically. Viscidium small, membranous. Auricles rather large, ovate. Stigmaphores canaliculate, papillate outside, with expanded apical parts, forming a kind of plates.—Figs. 1, 2.

ETYMOLOGY.—In reference to the *Platycoryne*-like habit.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known so far from Gabon only.

RELATIONSHIP.—In our opinion *Renzorchis pseudoplatycoryne* is only distantly related to *Habenaria* Willd. From any other genus of Habenariinae, it is easily to distinguish by its antherophores as long as the half of rostellophores.

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