



A new species of *Macroclinium* (Orchidaceae: Oncidiinae) from Andean Venezuela with brief comments on the biogeography of the genus

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Abstract

A new species of *Macroclinium* (Orchidaceae, Oncidiinae) is described and illustrated from the Venezuelan Andes. *Macroclinium lareense* is related to *M. borjaense* but is readily diagnosed by its wider isthmus, which is about as long as broad whereas it is conspicuously narrower in *M. borjaense*; furthermore, sizes and proportions of other floral organs are also different. The new species is only known from the Yacambú National Park in Lara state. An identification key and a distribution map of the species of *Macroclinium* present in Venezuela are provided. Finally, a brief biogeographical consideration of the genus is presented.

Key words: Biogeography, Lara state, *Macroclinium*, *Macroclinium lareense*, Oncidiinae, Orchidaceae, Venezuela

Introduction

The genus *Macroclinium* Barbosa-Rodríguez (1882: 236) encompasses 42 species distributed from northern Mexico to Brazil. The genus belongs in Oncidiinae clade J of Chase (2009) within which it falls in the “twig epiphyte clade”, where it is closely related to such genera as *Macradenia* Brown (1822: 612), *Notylia* Lindley (1825: 930), *Warmingia* Reichenbach (1881: 87), and *Seegeriella* Senghas (1997: 188). The recently described genera *Santanderella* Ortiz (2010: 170) and *Cypholoron* Dodson & Dressler (1972: 285) are also referable to this group of taxa, albeit no DNA material of either was available for phylogenetic analyses at the time of the Oncidiinae treatment of *Genera Orchidacearum* V (Chase 2009). *Notyliopsis* P.Ortiz (1996: 184), in spite of its name and morphology, is unrelated to this clade (Chase, 2009); it is much closer to *Zelenkoa* Chase & Williams in Williams *et al.* (2001: 139). All these genera except *Notyliopsis* share the twig-epiphytic life history traits (Chase, 1988) and a relatively elongated column with an apical or dorsal anther. Within clade J, *Macroclinium* can be easily distinguished by the combination of equitant leaves, pink to violet flowers, hastate labellum, and an elongate column.

In *Macroclinium*, vegetative and overall floral morphology are fairly homogeneous. Characters used to distinguish species reside mainly in the shape of the labellum and its ornamentations, as well as the habit, inflorescence type, morphology of the column and degree of its coalescence with the labellum (Pupulin 1996, 1997). In Venezuela, there are only two species officially recorded, *Macroclinium mirabile* (Schweinfurth, 1946: 202) Dodson (1984: 938) and *M. wulschlaegelianum* (Focke 1853: 343) Dodson (1984: 938). These two species are widely distributed (i.e. Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana), but in Venezuela they are restricted to the eastern and south-southeastern portions of the country in the Amazonas, Bolívar, Monagas, and Sucre states (Foldats 1970, Carnevali *et al.* 2008, Romero-González & Gómez 2009). During a taxonomic revision of *Notylia* for *Flora Mesoamericana* (Cetzal *et al.* in prep.), we detected a new