

## ADDITIONS TO THE ORCHID FLORA OF GUYANA

by

H. G. JONES

Trabajo dedicado en homenaje al Profesor S. Rivas Goday en su 70 aniversario.

The following paper continues the series of nomenclatural and taxonomic notes relating to new or noteworthy orchids from Guyana, of which two instalments have already been published (JONES, 1969, 1970b). The present contribution adds seven more species to the known *Orchidaceae* of this former British colony — of which one species, *Rodriguezia cinnabarina*, is described as new to science — and a short additional note on *Pleurothallis arachnopsis*, which was previously credited to Guyana, is also included. In the list which follows, the species are arranged in the alphabetical order of the genera to which they belong.

*Bletia altilamellata* Garay in Sv. Bot. Tidsk. 47: 222 (1953).

Previously known from Colombia.

In his paper on the genus *Bletia*, DRESSLER (1968) reduced this concept to synonymy under *B. campanulata* LaLav. & Lex. I have not seen the type-specimen of *B. altilamellata*, which is in Stockholm; but the flowers of my Guyanese plant agree well with Garay's illustration of this species, which is readily distinguishable from *B. campanulata* by the differently shaped front lobe of the labellum and the taller, more acute lamellae on the disc; furthermore in *B. altilamellata*, there are seven of these lamellae, whereas in *B. campanulata* there are only five. Since the type-specimen of *B. altilamellata* was leafless, it may be of interest to note that the Guyanese specimen also had shorter, broader leaves than those of *B. campanulata*.

*Brassavola amazonica* Poepp. & Endl. Nov. Gen. 1: 3 (1835).

*Bletia amazonica* Rchb. f. in Walp. Ann. 6: 434 (1861).

Previously known from Brazil and Venezuela.

This concept is sometimes included in the synonymy of the closely-related *B. Martiana* Lindl. (DUNSTERVILLE & GARAY, 1959; SCHLECHTER, 1919), but is easily separated from that species by the form of the labellum, which is curiously constricted in the middle, rather like a figure 8 — a characteristic which also separates *B. amazonica* from all the other species of *Brassavola Sessililabia* (JONES, 1970, 1971). The Guyanese specimen was slightly smaller in size than those previously collected elsewhere, but apart from this, there were no distinctive features.

*Caularthron amazonicum* (Schltr.) H. G. Jones in Candollea 23: 295 (1968).

*Diacrium amazonicum* Schltr. in Beih. Bot. Centr. 42: 108 (1925).

Previously known from Brazil, Venezuela, Trinidad and Barbados.

*C. amazonicum* is distinguished from the generic type, *C. bicornutum* (Hook.) Raf. by the undivided calluses on the labellum and the absence of the characteristic sinuses in the dorsal margins of the petals, which are found in the latter species. The holotype of *Diacrium amazonicum* was destroyed along with most of Schlechter's herbarium during World War II; but a floral analysis of the species, based upon a later collection from Brazil, has been published by PABST (1955). The species appears to be widely distributed in northern South America and the southern West Indies; it is frequently confused with *C. bicornutum* (JONES, 1968, 1973).

*Oliveriana egregia* Rchb. f. in Linnaea 41: 111 (1876).

Previously known from Colombia.

I originally prepared a description of this Guyanese plant as a new species, because at first — although the specimen was altogether more

robust than those found at higher altitudes — the flowers were somewhat smaller than those of Reichenbach's type-specimen (GARAY, 1961); and the fleshy midlobe of the labellum shorter and blunter at the tip. On flowering for the second time, however, the flowers were much larger; and the difference was, therefore, less noticeable.

*Oliveriana* is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating of the smaller genera in the *Oncidiaceae*: since the publication of Garay's paper, a third species has been added to the genus by FERNÁNDEZ (1969); and more recently, DRESSLER and WILLIAMS (1970) have transferred to *Oliveriana* a Peruvian species originally described by SCHWEINFURTH (1949) under the genus *Odontoglossum*.

*Pleurothallis arachnopsis* H. G. Jones in Bol. Soc. Brot. 44: 214 (1970).

Previously known from Guyana — apparently endemic.

In my original description of this species, I indicated that it was apparently without close allies. Since then, I have come across an early publication of the late Dr. F. C. HOEHNE (1936), in which he described a new Brazilian species, *P. peroupavae*: this is undoubtedly related to *P. arachnopsis*, but is readily distinguishable by its larger size and proportionately longer, non-fasciculate inflorescence; the similarity of the two concepts lies chiefly in the colour of the flowers and the unjoined lateral sepals. To a lesser extent, *P. arachnopsis* also recalls another Brazilian species, *P. maculosa* Garay (1951); but this is easily distinguished by its yellow coloured flowers and differently shaped petals and labellum. The small, dark purple flowers of *P. arachnopsis* were thought to resemble tiny spiders — hence the specific name.

*Rodriguezia cinnabarina* H. G. Jones, *sp. nov.* affinis *R. secunda* H. B. K. a qua statura minore, rhizomatis inter pseudobulbis brevior distantibus, folio conduplicato, scapo brevior, floribus majoribus color pallide cinnabarinis, labello apice apiculato non bilobulato satis differt.

Epiphytica caespitosa usque ad 12 cm alta; rhizomate abbreviato, inter pseudobulbis circa 1.5 cm longo; radicibus filiformibus, flexuosis, glabris; pseudobulbis anguste ellipticis, compressis, circa 2 cm altis, medio circa 1.3 cm lato, apice unifoliatis, vagina 3-4 foliifera pro-

tectis; foliis erectis vel suberectis, plus vel minus conduplicatis, crassocoriaceis, apice acutis, circa 9.5 cm longis, medio explanato circa 1.4 cm lato; inflorescentiis in axillis vaginarum foliifera juvenilis natis, quam foliis paulo brevioribus, circa 8 cm longis, apice recemosis, laxepaucifloris; floribus illis *R. secunda* similibus, sed paulo majoribus, color pallide cinnabariniis: sepalo dorsale oblongo elliptico, apice obtuso vel subacuto, circa 1.7 cm longo, circa 1 cm lato; sepalis lateralis in lamina conduplicata connatis, apice acutis, circa 2.2 cm longis, medio explanato circa 1.4 cm lato; petalis oblongo ellipticis, apice obtusis, circa 1.1 cm longis, medio circa 8 mm lato; labello subtriangulari, apice apiculato, circa 2 cm longo, circa 1.2 cm lato, callo bicornuto elevato ornato; columna, anthera et pollinia generis; ovario pedicellato gracili, glabro, circa 2.8 cm longo.

TYPE: Guyana, south-western forests, near Guyana-Brazil border; flowered under cultivation in Barbados, 1957. *Herb. Jones. Misc. R. 163.*

This new species is closely related to *R. secunda* H. B. K., from which it should be quite easily distinguishable by the characters set out in the above diagnosis. I suspect that the white-flowered variety of *R. secunda* which has been reported from the West Indian island of Trinidad may possibly belong to *R. cinnabarina* rather than *R. secunda*; however, as I have not so far been able to obtain a good specimen of the Trinidad plant, I cannot be certain of this.

*Schomburgkia rosea* Linden ex Lindl. Bot. Reg. 31: 53 (1845).

*Bletia rosea* Rchb. f. in Walp. Ann. 6: 420 (1861).

Previously known from Colombia and Venezuela.

Closely related to the common *S. undulata* Lindl., from which it may be distinguished by the following details: (1) the leaves are relatively broader and more obtuse; (2) the flower-scape is shorter; (3) the flowers are smaller and lighter coloured; (4) the floral segments are proportionately broader and less deeply undulate; (5) there are only three keels on the labellum as compared with five in *S. undulata* (JONES, 1970a).

*Xerorchis amazonica* Schltr. in Fedd. Rep. 11: 45 (1912).

*Epidendrum trichorhizum* Krzl. in Fedd. Rep. 25: 21 (1927).

*Xerorchis trichorhiza* Garay in Can. Jour. Bot. 34: 241 (1956).

Previously known from Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil and Bolivia.

This species is rather variable in regard to the size and colour of the flowers: the labellum is always white, but the sepals and petals range from off-white through cream to pale green. *X. trichorhiza* has been maintained by GARAY (1956) on the basis of the labellum possessing two «lamellae»: presumably this refers to the pair of slightly raised ribs which are found near the base of the midlobe; but the degree to which this feature is developed varies considerably from specimen to specimen — therefore it cannot, in my opinion, be satisfactorily used as a diagnostic character.

#### RESUMEN

En este trabajo se añaden siete nuevas citas de Orquidáceas a la flora de Guyana entre las cuales se describe por primera vez *Rodriguezia cinnabarina*; también se incluye una pequeña nota sobre *Pleurothallis arachnopsis*.

#### SUMMARY

Seven additions to the orchid flora of Guyana — the former colony of British Guyana: *Rodriguezia cinnabarina* is described as new to science; and an additional note on *Pleurothallis arachnopsis*, previously described from Guyana, is also included.

#### REFERENCES

- DRESSLER, R. L. — 1968 — Notes on *Bletia* (Orchidaceae) — Brittonia, 20: 182-190.  
DRESSLER, R. L. & WILLIAMS, N. H. — 1970 — The genus *Systeloglossum* — American Orchid Society Bulletin, 39: 323-329.  
DUNSTERVILLE, G. C. K. & GARAY, L. A. — 1959 — Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated — Vol. 1. London, Andre Deutsch, 448 pp.

- FERNÁNDEZ, F. P. — El género *Oliveriana* — *Orquideologia*, 4: 85-89.
- GARAY, L. A. — 1951 — *Notatio Orchidologica*, I — *Arquivos do Jardim Botânico Rio de Janeiro*, 11: 51-60.
- GARAY, L. A. — 1953 — *Orchidaceae Austro-Americanae*, I — *Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift*, 47: 190-234.
- GARAY, L. A. — 1956 — *Studies in American Orchids*, I — *Canadian Journal of Botany*, 34: 241-260.
- GARAY, L. A. — 1961 — *Oliveriana: a Member of the Oncidieae* — *Novedades Colombianas*, 1: 353-357.
- HOEHNE, F. C. — 1936 — *Orchidaceas dos Herbários de Alexandre Curt Brade e do Museu Nacional* — *Boletim do Museu Nacional Rio de Janeiro*, 12: 1-37.
- JONES, H. G. — 1968 — Notes on a Collection of Orchids from the West Indian Island of Trinidad — *Candollea*, 23: 295-299.
- JONES, H. G. — 1969 — New or Noteworthy Records for the Orchid Flora of Guyana — *Darwiniana*, 15: 22-24.
- JONES, H. G. — 1970 — *Studies in Brassavola*, II — *Phyton*, 14: 31-35.
- JONES, H. G. — 1970a — *Orchidaceae americanae* — *Caldasia*, 10: 491-495.
- JONES, H. G. — 1970b — Three New Orchids from Guyana — *Boletim da Sociedade Broteriana*, 44: 213-216.
- JONES, H. G. — 1971 — El género *Brassavola* en Suramérica — *Orquideologia*, 6: 149-153; 209-216.
- PABST, G. F. J. — 1955 — As orquídeas do herbário do Instituto Agronômico do Norte — *Arquivos de Botânica do Estado de São Paulo*, 3: 117-159.
- SCHLECHTER, R. — 1919 — Die Gattung *Brassavola* R. Br. — *Orchis*, 13: 41-59.
- SCHWEINFURTH, C. — 1949 — A Novel member of a Popular genus — *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, 18: 578-580.