

A new species of *Specklinia* (Orchidaceae, Pleurothallidinae) from Colombia

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Abstract: During field work conducted in Colombia, a new species of the genus *Specklinia* Lindl., *S. pereziana* was found. The new species is described and illustrated. Information about its habitat and ecology is provided. *Specklinia pereziana* is similar to *S. muricaudata*, from which it differs in leaf shape and floral characters – the main differences between the species are discussed.

Key words: Orchidaceae, *Specklinia*, new species

1. Introduction

The genus *Specklinia* Lindl. embraces about 86-420 species distributed from Brazil and Bolivia to Mexico and the West Indies (Barros 1983, 2004, 2006; Pridgeon & Chase 2001; Luer 2004, 2006, 2007; Barros & Rodrigues 2009; Barros & Barberena 2010). Their occurrence has been reported from the humid and wet forests between sea level and up to 3000 m altitude (Pridgeon *et al.* 2005). This genus is extremely difficult to classify due to the high degree of morphological variation of the species. There have been several unsuccessful attempts to split *Specklinia* s.l. into smaller, clearly defined genera (Pridgeon & Chase 2001; Barros 2002; Luer 2006). Moreover, the results of morphological research (Luer 2006) are in conflict with genetic studies (Pridgeon & Chase 2001).

Field work conducted in the south-eastern Colombia in 2009, 2010 and 2011 provide information about several new orchid species (Pérez *et al.* 2010a, 2010b). In the region of Bajo Calima (municipality of Buenaventura), an area of high orchid diversity and endemism, a distinct species of *Specklinia* was found (Luer 1991; Hágsater 1999; Ortiz & Hágsater 1999). This species is described here as new.

2. Material and methods

Field work in the region of Bajo Calima, Colombia, was conducted in January 2011. Information about habitat and ecology of every orchid population found during this expedition was collected and a photographic documentary was prepared. Representative specimen of every population was collected and preserved by drying the whole plants or by maintaining the material in Kew Mixture (53% industrial methylated spirit, 37% water, 5% formaldehyde solution and 5% glycerol).

The comparative research was conducted in the herbaria AMO, COL, CUV, JAUM, K and VALLE. Morphological studies were carried out under a stereomicroscope.

3. Results

Taxonomic notes: *Specklinia pereziana* Kolanowska sp. nov. (Figs. 1-2).

Type: Colombia. Dept. Valle del Cauca. Mun. Buenaventura. Bajo Calima. Alt. near the sea level. 3 Jan 2011. M. Kolanowska & O. Pérez 263 (Holotype: UGDA! – plant in spirit).

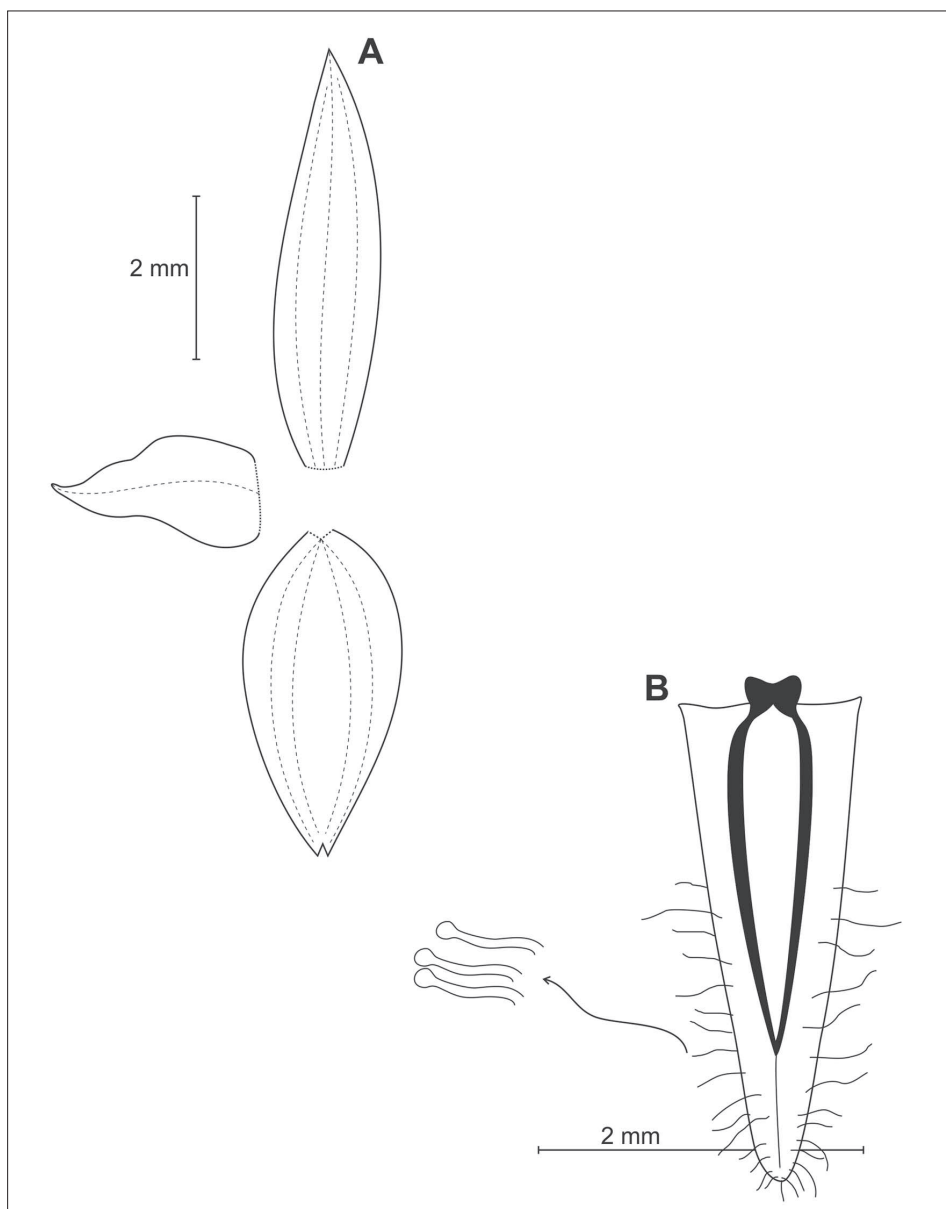


Fig. 1. *Specklinia pereziana* – dissected perianth (drawn from the holotype)
 Explanations: A – tepals, B – lip

Planta caespitosa. Folio elliptico obtuso. Sepalo dorsali lanceolato. Sepalis lateralibus in laminam ovatum obtusum connatis, apice bifidid. Petalis ovatis. Floribus fasciculatis successivis. Labellum oblongum, ciliatum, apice rotundum, cum callo e duobus lamellis paralleli. Columna late alata.

Etymology: Dedicated to Oscar Alejandro Pérez Escobar, the co-collector of the type specimen.

Description: Very small, caespitose plants. Roots about 0.5 mm thick, slender. Ramicaul about 2 mm long, with 2 tubular sheaths at the base about 1.5–2 mm long. Leaf 3–6 mm long and 2–3 mm wide, elliptic, obtuse. Inflorescence a congested 2-flowered fascicle of successive flowers, borne by an suberect, filiform peduncle, lateral to the ramicaul. Floral bract about 1.5 mm long. Pedicels about 2.2 mm long. Ovary about 0.5 mm long.

Flowers small, maroon. Tepals glabrous, margins entire. Dorsal sepal about 5 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, lanceolate, acute, 3-veined. Lateral sepals about 4 mm long and 2 mm wide, connate into an ovate, shortly bifid lamina, free apices acute, 4-veined. Petals about 2.5 mm long and 1.2 mm wide, ovate, oblique, acute, 1-veined. Lip about 2.8 mm long and 1.1 mm wide, delicately hinged to the column-foot, oblong, apex rounded, margins entire, the apical 2/3 ciliate; disc with two longitudinal calli in apposition at the base, diverging towards the middle to create a central cavity, reuniting towards the apex. Column about 1.5 mm long, broadly winged, wings minutely denticulate.

Habitat and ecology: The population of about 20 individuals was found near sea level in disturbed lowland tropical forest. The plants were



Fig. 2. *Specklinia pereziana* – population found during field work
 Explanations: A – habit, B – flower close-up

growing as a twig epiphytes on a guava tree (*Psidium guajava* L.).

Distribution: This species is known only from the type locality.

Observations: *Specklinia pereziana* is similar to *S. muricaudata* (Luer) Luer from which it differs by having elliptic leaf (vs leaf narrowly elliptic-obovate in *S. muricaudata*), 2-flowered fascicle of successive

flowers (vs several-flowered raceme), glabrous sepals (vs sepals minutely ciliate-pubescent), ovate, acute petals (vs petals obovate, contracted into filiform tails) and oblong lip (vs lip oblong-subpandurate).

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