

A NEW SPECIES OF CORYANTHES FROM SOUTHERN VENEZUELA (ORCHIDACEAE)

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ABSTRACT. *Coryanthes pegiae* Romero, sp. nov., from the Territorio Federal Amazonas of Venezuela is described. Its closest ally is *C. rutkisia* Foldats, from which it differs in its deeply emarginated hypochile and overall coloration.

***Coryanthes pegiae* Romero, sp. nov. FIGURE 1.**

Coryanthis rutkisia Foldats affinis sed hypochilo et colore florum differt.

TYPE. Venezuela, T. F. Amazonas, Río Cataniapo, Raudal Rabipelado, epiphytic in ant nest, alt. ca. 75 m, 5 June 1984, *G. A. Romero 1202* (VEN, holotype).

Plant epiphytic in ant nests, small for the genus. Rhizome short; pseudobulbs about 9 cm long, cylindrical-pyriform, deeply pluri-sulcate, bifoliate at the apex, surrounded at the base by scariosus sheaths. Leaves narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, gradually narrowed below, about 33 cm long, including the long, slender, channelled petiole. Lamina about 27 cm long, about 4.5 cm wide, plicate. Inflorescence lateral, erect to lightly arcuate, 1-2 flowered at the apex; peduncle slender, 22-32 cm long, with short remote tubular-infundibuliform sheaths. Pedicellate ovary elongate, slender, about 7.5 cm long, almost 4 times as long as the concave, scariosus subtending bract. Flowers orange-brown, densely spotted and blotched with dark red-maroon. Sepals and petals membranaceous. Dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, about 2.5 cm long and 3 cm wide; petals narrowly oblong, falcate, obtuse, about 3 cm long and 1 cm wide near the base; lateral sepals obliquely oblong-ovate, about 6 cm long and 4 cm wide where broadest. Lip fleshy, divided into a clawed, shallowly concave hypochile, a narrow semi-tubular mesochile and a larger bucket-like epichile; claw yellow-green, narrow, about 12 mm long; hypochile dark red-maroon, disciform, shallowly concave with concavity facing the claw, cordate, deeply emargin-

ated, 11 mm from the base to the pilose apical tips, about 2 cm wide where broadest; mesochile dark red-maroon, semitubular, about 12-15 cm long, with 3 transverse, cordate, deeply emarginated, 4-lobed ridges, decreasing in size from the base; epichile much larger, broadly subconic, abruptly 3-lobulate in front, the lateral lobes uncinata at the apex, the middle lobe ovate-oblong. Column gradually dilated towards the apex, recurved near the apex, bialate, about 2.5 cm long, with a pair of shallowly falcate, fluid-producing glands at the base. Pollinia 2, hard, yellow.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Venezuela. T. F. AMAZONAS: Río Cataniapo, Raudal Rabipelado, 26 August 1984, *G. A. Romero 1218* (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION. Southern Venezuela.

HABITAT. Epiphytic in ant nests in trees along tropical humid forest streams.

PHENOLOGY. Flowering throughout the year.

RELATIONSHIPS. This species is closely allied to *Coryanthes rutkisia* Foldats, but differs in its deeply emarginated hypochile, overall coloration and smaller size.

ETYMOLOGY. This species is named in honor of my wife Peggy for her invaluable assistance in the field and the laboratory.

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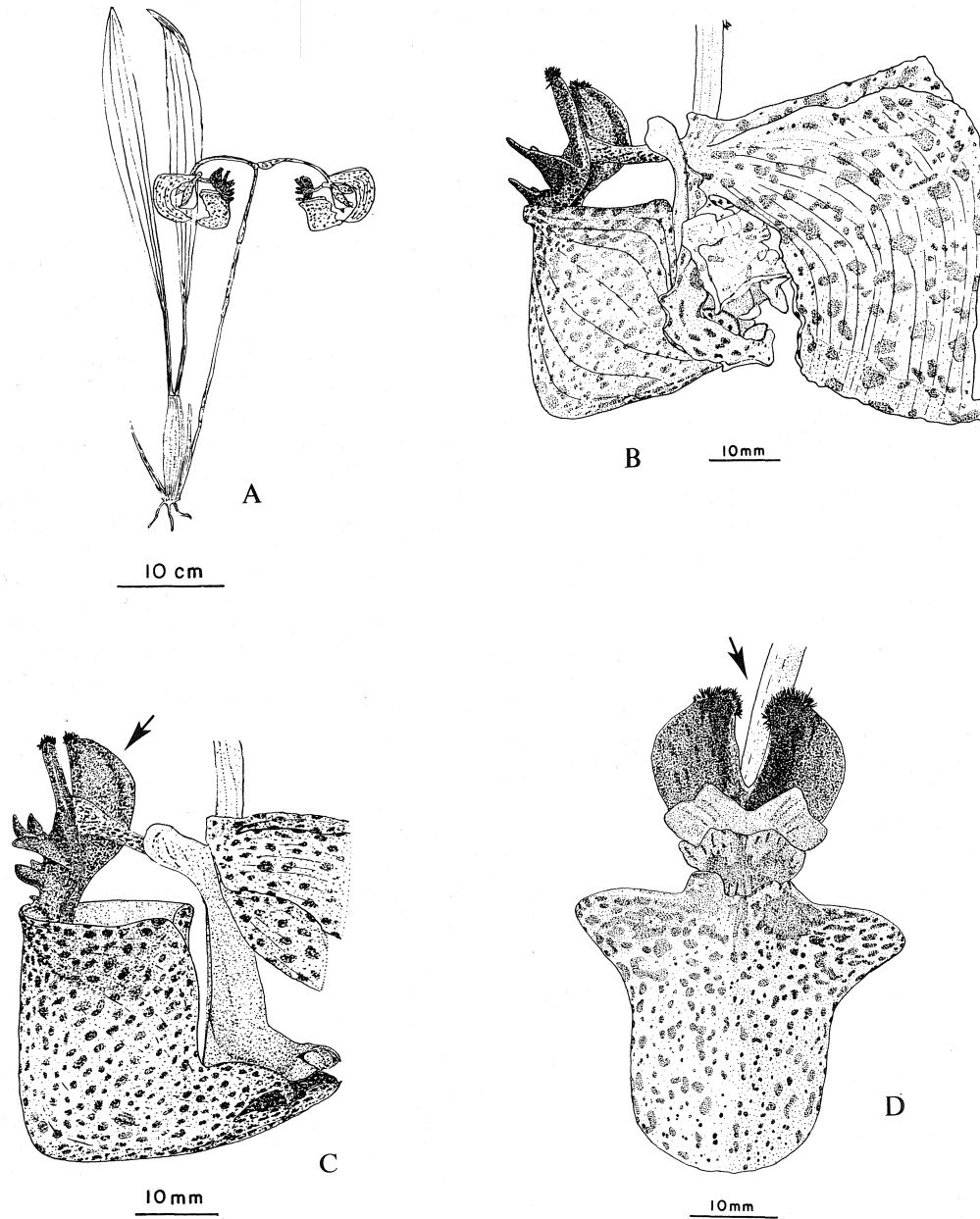


FIGURE 1. *Coryanthes pegiae* Romero. A, habit. B, C, D, flower: B, lateral view; C, detail of lip and column (arrow indicates the shallow concavity of the hypochile facing the claw); D, front view (arrow indicates the deeply emarginated hypochile). (Drawn from *G. A. Romero 1202*.)