

AN OLD SPECIES FINALLY NAMED AND DESCRIBED:
GONGORA BORACAYANENSIS

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ABSTRACT. This article is a clarification of the misapplied use of the name *Gongora quinquenervis* Ruiz & Pav. for a horticulturally known but scientifically undescribed *Gongora* (Orchidaceae; Stanhopeinae) from Costa Rica, which is here described and illustrated.

Key words: Orchidaceae, Epidendroideae, Cymbidieae, Stanhopeinae, *Gongora*, Refugio de Vida Silvestre Boracayán, Costa Rica

INTRODUCTION

During a trip through Costa Rica in 1980, Rudolf Jenny collected some *Gongora* plants in the Fila Costeña Norte. One of those plants flowered in his collection in Berne in 1981 for the first time but he was then not able to identify it. Between 1975 and 1990 Jenny received a great number of different *Gongora* species from Costa Rica from the well known orchid-hunter Clarence Horich. Some of them turned out to be well known and easy to identify while others apparently represented an undescribed species that remained unnamed because there was insufficient data available for a new description. One example of this unnamed species was a plant collected by Horich in the Cordillera Brunqueña at about 900 m altitude. Another plant came from a Jenny collection in 1981, again from Fila Costeña Norte.

Obviously this unknown species was widely distributed in culture. It was rather by accident that a slide of this species was used in 1993 on the front-cover of the Monograph of the genus *Gongora*. After the publication of the book Jenny got more material of the plant from different growers. He received material of the very same species from Leon Glicenstein (Hoosier Orchids) who had used the plant for hybridization and needed a valid name for the registration. At about the same time Jenny received drawings of the same species from Selby Gardens, including the following note:

“During a preliminary plant inventory in May 2003, of the Boracayán wildlife refuge in south western Costa Rica, owned and managed by Ann Patton and John

Bender, a *Lycaste* plant was collected by staff of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, in collaboration with Lankester Botanical Garden. The *Lycaste* was brought back to Selby Gardens with numerous other collections and placed under the care of horticulturist Angel Lara. The plant was repotted in 2004, when a small and different looking orchid seedling was discovered among the pseudobulbs of the *Lycaste*. The seedling resembled a minute *Gongora* and was therefore placed in a hanging basket to allow any future and pendent inflorescences to develop freely. The first flowering of the *Gongora* took place in 2006 and some flowers were photographed and preserved in alcohol for identification at the Orchid Identification Center (OIC). Since the curator of the OIC was out of the country at the time of flowering, the jar with the *Gongora* flowers was temporarily placed on a shelf where it remained unidentified for a while. Eventually, an attempt to identify the plant resulted in the conclusion that it represented what Jenny (1993) describes as a frequently cultivated but misidentified species, known in horticulture as *Gongora quinquenervis* Ruiz & Pav. A photo of the misidentified species can be seen on the cover of his monograph of the genus. Since Jenny has established that the real *Gongora quinquenervis* represents a different species, the plant from Boracayán hence needs a new name.”

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Gongora boracayanensis R.Jenny, Dalström,
W.E.Higgins, sp.nov.

Habitus similis aliis speciebus subgeneris *Gongorae*. Flores inter *Gongoram unicoloram* et *G. claviodoram* medii. Cornua hypochili breves, non reflexa; labellum album, apicaliter paucis maculis rubris toto hypochilo extensis; sepala rosea, basaliter cum maculis atro-rubris, versus apicem tribus latis striis transientibus.

TYPE: Costa Rica—San Jose, collected in wet forest on the coastal ridge of the Fila Costeña

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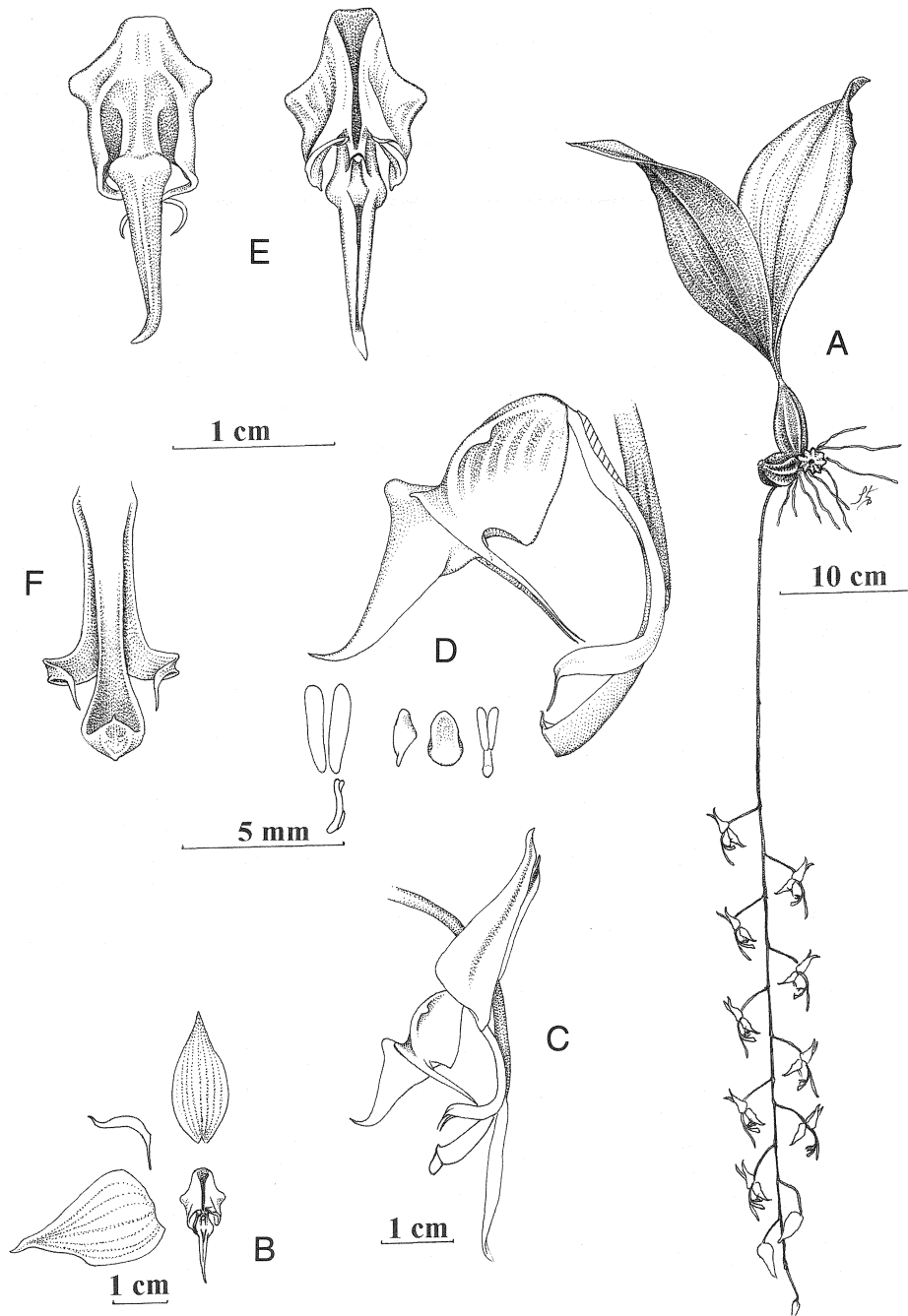


FIGURE 1. Type of *Gongora boracayanensis*, Costa Rica, Prov. San Jose, Fila Costeña Norte, collected in wet forest on the coastal ridge near the provincial border between San José and Puntarenas, Refugio de Vida Silvestre Boracayán, 600–700 m. **A.** Plant habit. **B.** Dissected flower. **C.** Flower lateral view. **D.** Lip and column lateral view; anthercap frontal view; pollinarium frontal and lateral view. **E.** Lip dorsal and ventral view. **F.** Column frontal view. Drawing by Stig Dalström.

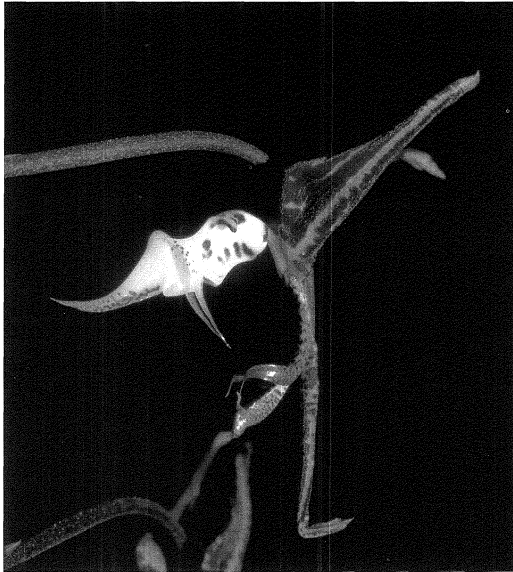


FIGURE 2. Lateral view of *Gongora boracayanensis* (7/26/1981, G-132)

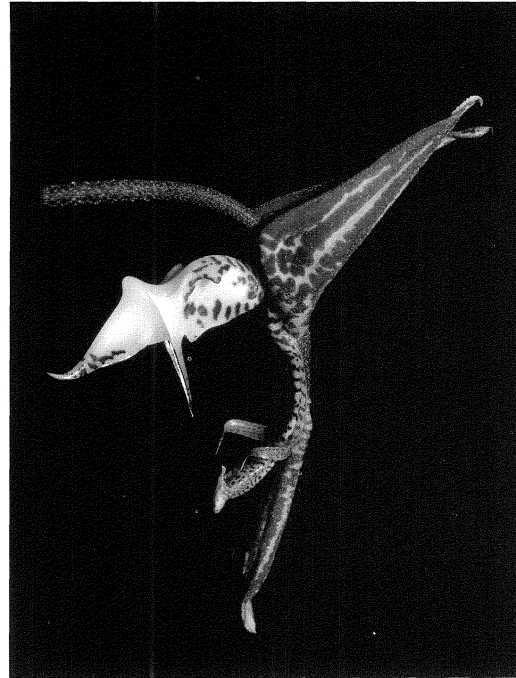


FIGURE 4. Lateral view of *Gongora boracayanensis* (5/20/1987, G-240)

Norte near the border between province San José and Puntarenas, Refugio de Vida Silvestre Boracayán, 600–700 m, 29 May 2003, *J.R. Clark et al.* 314 B (type SEL) FIGURE 1.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS: Costa Rica—Alto de San Juan, Fila Costeña Norte, 1000 m, col. R.Jenny, ex cult. 7/26/1981, G-132, Herb. Jenny. Costa Rica—Cordillera Brunqueña, 900 m, coll. C.Horich, 5/20/1987, ex cult. R.Jenny G-240, Herb. Jenny. Costa Rica—Rio Pacuare, col. R.Jenny, 1986, ex cult. R.Jenny, 5/25/1988, G-88, Herb. Jenny.

DISTRIBUTION. Endemic for Costa Rica.

ETYMOLOGY: Named after the private wildlife

refuge of Boracayán, Costa Rica, where the holotype of this species, unknowingly and serendipitously, was collected.

Plant epiphytic with short, creeping rhizomes and clustered pseudobulbs. **Pseudobulbs** conical, deeply and angularly ridged, star-shaped in cross section, 7 cm high and 4–5 cm diameter, bifoliate. **Leaves** petiolate, plicate, broadly lanceolate to ovate, acute 25–35 cm long and 12–15 cm wide; petiole short, 5–6 cm long. **Inflorescence** from the base of the pseudobulb, pendent, 30–70 cm long, with 10 to 15 flowers.

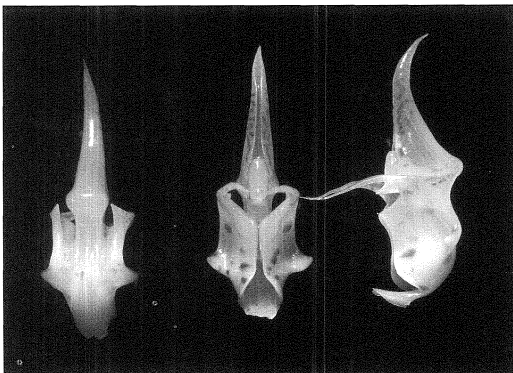


FIGURE 3. Lip details of *Gongora boracayanensis* (7/26/1981, G-132)

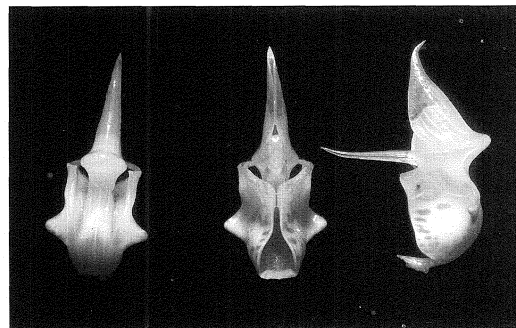


FIGURE 5. Lip details of *Gongora boracayanensis* (5/20/1987, G-240)

Bracts triangular, apiculate, appressed. **Sepals** pale red with large dark-red spots near the base, changing towards the apex into stripes, with a velutinous surface. **Dorsal sepal** lanceolate, acute, 2.4–2.6 cm long, 0.5–0.6 cm wide when spread, slightly revolute along the edge. **Lateral sepals** slightly asymmetrically triangular, acute, reflexed, 2.6–2.9 cm long and 1.1–1.3 cm wide with revolute edges. **Petals** pale red-green with small dark-red spots; united to the column for two thirds of their length, free at their tips and gradually ending in two long, acute bristles, altogether 1.7–1.9 cm long. **Labellum** white with a few red spots on the lower part of the epichile

and on the hypochile; tripartite, hypochile from the side triangular in lateral view with short basal lateral horns, tips acute; mesochile tips extended and apiculate, hump distinct; epichile high and apiculate, slightly recurved. **Column** pale red-green with small dark-red bars; slightly curved, triangularly alate at the tip, 1.8–2 cm long. 2 pollinia on short linear stipes.

LITERATURE CITED

- Jenny, R. 1993. Monograph of the Genus *Gongora* Ruiz & Pavon. Koeltz Scientific Books, Champaign, Ill.