

## A CATASETUM (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM PERU

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**ABSTRACT.** A large-flowered and spectacular, horticulturally known but scientifically undescribed *Catasetum* (Orchidaceae: Catasetinae) from Peru is described, illustrated, and compared with similar species.

**Key words:** Orchidaceae, Epidendroideae, Cymbidieae, Catasetinae, *Catasetum*, Peru

### INTRODUCTION

This showy *Catasetum* species was collected in 1976 by Dr. George B. Ferguson in southwest Peru, in an area well known for its richness in orchids. Ferguson reported the collection site as 1100 m, but this area of Peru has an elevation of circa 2000 m. A specimen was sent to the Orchid Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (SEL), Sarasota, Florida, in 1982 where it has remained until present. Calaway Dodson applied the name *Catasetum fergusonii* in ed. to the OIC specimen but the name was not published. Although scientifically undescribed, *C. fergusonii* has received five American Orchid Society awards: *C. fergusonii* 'Burnham Wood' CHM 82; *C. fergusonii* 'J.E.M.' AM 82; *C. fergusonii* 'Loon Landing' AM 81; *C. fergusonii* 'Rocky Chocolate' AM 83; and *C. fergusonii* 'Yvonne' AM 80. This treatment validates the name already in use in horticulture.

### TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

*Catasetum fergusonii* Dodson ex W.E.Higgins & Dalström, sp. nov. TYPE: Peru.—Arequipa: 10 kilometers west of Arequipa, ca. 1100 m [sic 2000 m], January 1976, *G. Ferguson s.n.* (Holotype: SEL, OIC-6748).

FIGURE 1.

Species *Cataseto tenebroso* et *Cataseto saccato* similis sed forma labelli aspectu laterali ephippioideo et marginibus labelli sparse laceratis vel fimbriatis differt. Etiam et ordinatione bicolori columnae bruno viridique et ordinatione bicolori labelli bruno alboque distinguitur.

**Plant** epiphytic, caespitose, vegetatively indistinguishable from other members of the ge-

nus. **Pseudobulbs** swollen fusiform, octofoliate, subtended by distichous sheaths, 13.5 × 8.0 cm. **Leaves** deciduous, thin, plicate, pseudopetiolate, oblanceolate, acuminate, ribbed on underside; to 31 × 8.0 cm. **Inflorescence** axillary from the lowermost sheaths, arched, racemose, with 8–20 evenly spaced flowers, to 47 cm long. **Staminate Flowers** resupinate, more or less stellate. **Pistillate Flowers** not seen. **Sepals** dark maroon chocolate (sable) brown, green cast on reverse, concave, acuminate, elliptic-oblong, lateral sepals (27–35 × 21–30 mm) held perpendicular to dorsal sepal, 30–35 × 15–28 mm. **Petals** dark maroon-chocolate-brown, slightly mottled, linear-lanceolate, erect, connivent with dorsal sepal, 23–25 × 15–20 mm. **Lip** center white surrounded with apple-green with maroon-chocolate periphery, saccate, with sparsely-fimbriated margin, trilobed, triangular, 23–27 × 9–13 mm. **Callus** white, fleshy, surrounding central cavity. **Column** apple green internally with exterior darker maroon chocolate overlay; apex rostrate; thick; with decurved parallel short antennae; 6 mm long. **Anther cap** pale-green, rostrate. **Pollinia** 2, hard, globular. Flower substance heavy, texture matte. Flowers September to January in cultivation.

*Catasetum fergusonii* differs from other similar species by a combination of features. This species is similar to *Catasetum tenebrosum* Kraenzl. and *Catasetum saccatum* Lindl. but differs in the lip saddle-shaped profile (*C. saccatum*—mound shaped; *C. tenebrosum*—plateau shaped) and sparse laceration/fimbriation on margin of the lip (*C. tenebrosum*—dentate; *C. saccatum*—fimbriate-laciniate). The brown and green bicolor pattern on the column (*C. tenebrosum*—concolor/blotched, green/yellow/brown; *C. saccatum*—chartreuse, spotted brown overlay) and the brown and white bicolor pattern on the lip (*C. saccatum*—lip variable in color yellow/brown/char-

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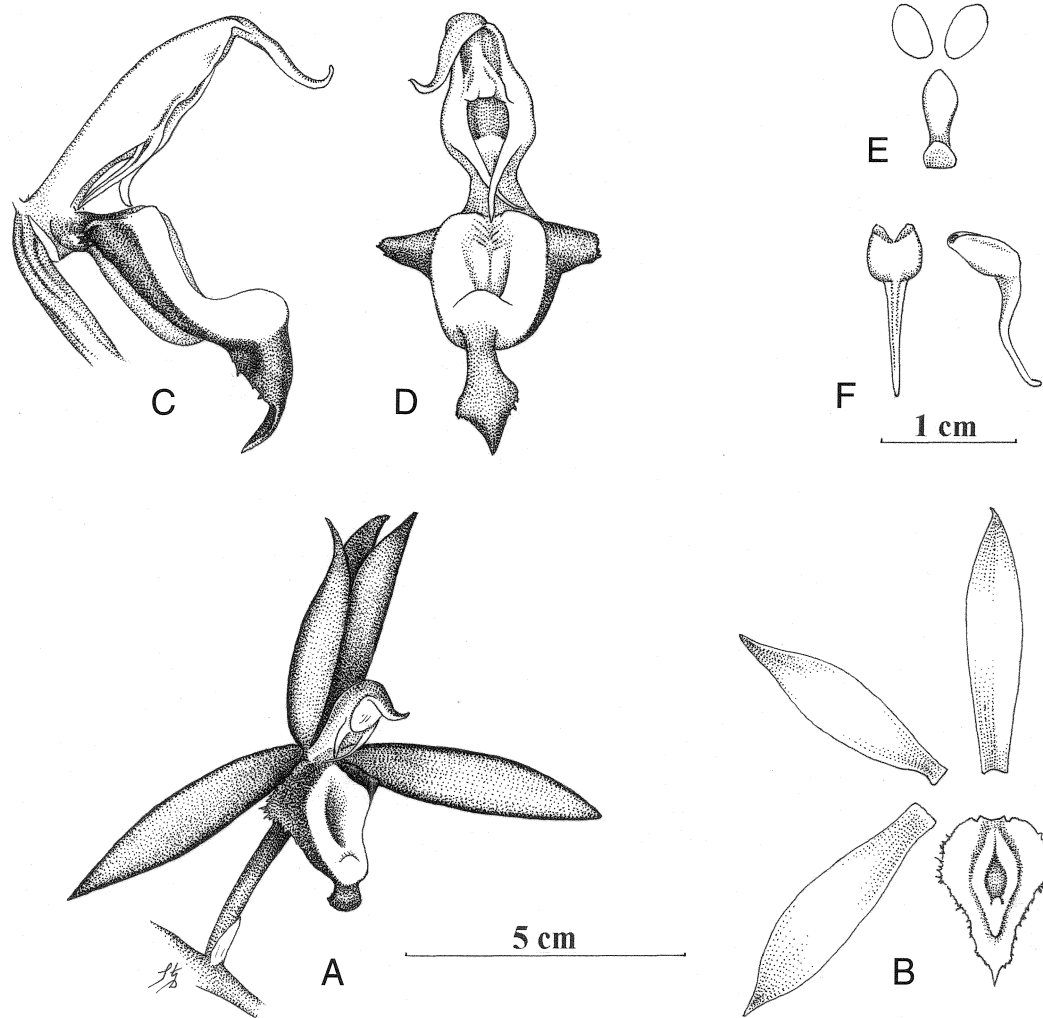


FIGURE 1. *Catasetum fergusonii* Dodson ex W.E.Higgins & Dalström. **A.** Floral habit. **B.** Floral diagram. **C.** Column and lip, lateral view. **D.** Column and lip, ventral view. **E.** Pollinarium. **F.** Anther cap with a lateral view of the anther. Drawings by Stig Dalström.

treuse/white with spots/flecks of red/mahogany; *C. tenebrosus*—tricolor lip, yellow yellow-green yellow-white apex, sporadically brown tinge on margin) are additional distinguishing characteristics.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Known only from Peru.

**ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS:** OIC-15147, ex hort. *George Carr s.n.* (SEL) 2007.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named in memory of George B. Ferguson of Peoria, Illinois. Ferguson was an English professor at Bradley University. He wrote many plays, one of which played in New York. George grew and collected orchids and was also an accredited American Orchid Society

judge at the St. Louis Missouri Judging Center. (In the interest of nomenclatural stability the horticultural name already in use is validated.)

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