

NEW COMBINATIONS IN MESOAMERICAN ONCIDIINAE (ORCHIDACEAE)

ROBERT L. DRESSLER*

Missouri Botanical Garden, Florida Museum of Natural History, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens;
Mailing address: 21305 NW 86th Ave., Micanopy, FL 32667, USA.
E-mail: rdressl@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu

NORRIS H. WILLIAMS

Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7800, USA.

ABSTRACT. *Brassia gireoudiana* Rchb.f. is treated as a subspecies of *B. verrucosa* Lindl. because of apparent hybridization in Costa Rica. *Trichocentrum stipitatum* (Lindl.) Chase & N.H. Williams is treated as a subspecies of *T. nudum* (Batem. ex Lindl.) Chase & N.H. Williams because of an area of intergradations in the Perlas Archipelago and Panamá province. Reflecting recent work in DNA analysis, new combinations are published in *Cuitlauzina* for four species previously treated as *Osmoglossum* or *Palumbina*. *Odontoglossum leucomelas* Rchb.f., a close ally of *Oncidium stenoglossum*, is transferred to *Oncidium*.

Key words: Mesoamerica, orchids, Oncidiinae, new combinations, *Brassia*, *Cuitlauzina*, *Oncidium*, *Psycmorchis*, *Trichocentrum*

INTRODUCTION

In the course of preparing the orchid treatment for the Flora Mesoamericana, we found the need for several new combinations. This is especially true in the subtribe Oncidiinae, a group now being studied by M.W. Chase and N.H. Williams. Some of the new combinations that are needed are already in press and will surely be published before the Mesoamerica treatment is finished. Taxonomic authors will find this situation a difficult one, to be sure.

NEW COMBINATIONS

Brassia

Brassia verrucosa Lindl. subsp. ***gireoudiana*** (Rchb.f. & Warsz.) Dressler & N.H. Williams, comb. nov. *Brassia gireoudiana* Rchb.f. & Warsz., Allg. Gartenzeit. 22: 273 (1854).

Some brassias of Costa Rica have been identified as *Brassia verrucosa*, even though some botanists have dismissed them as “hybrids.” In any case, no clear distinction is evident between *B. verrucosa* and *B. gireoudiana*. Lacking a field study of variation, we opt for treating *B. gireoudiana* as a subspecies of *B. verrucosa*.

Cuitlauzina

A close relationship between *Palumbina* and [*Odontoglossum* subgenus] *Osmoglossum* has

* Corresponding author.

been clear for decades and well supported by anatomical data (Ayensu & Williams 1972) as well as by close floral and vegetative resemblances. This close relationship is now supported by molecular data that show both groups closely allied to *Cuitlauzina pendula* Llave & Lex. (Williams et al. 2001). Thus we here transfer the Mesoamerican species of this clade to *Cuitlauzina*.

Cuitlauzina candida (Lindl.) Dressler & N.H. Williams, comb. nov. *Oncidium candidum* Lindl., *Edward's Bot. Reg.* 29: Misc. p. 56 (1843).

Cuitlauzina egertonii (Lindl.) Dressler & N.H. Williams, comb. nov. *Odontoglossum egertonii* Lindl., *Edward's Bot. Reg.* 31: Misc. p. 50 (1845).

Cuitlauzina convallarioides (Schltr.) Dressler & N.H. Williams, comb. nov. *Osmoglossum convallarioides* Schltr., *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih.* 19: 148 (1923).

Cuitlauzina pulchella (Batem. ex Lindl.) Dressler & N.H. Williams, comb. nov. *Odontoglossum pulchellum* Batem. ex Lindl., *Edward's Bot. Reg.* 27: t. 48 (1841).

Oncidium

Oncidium leucomelas (Rchb.f.) Dressler & N.H. Williams, comb. nov. *Odontoglossum leucomelas* Rchb.f., *Bot. Zeitung* (Berlin) 22: 415. 1864.

This poorly known species (*Oncidium leucomelas*) is closely related to *O. stenoglossum* (Schltr.) Dressler & N.H. Williams, differing slightly in form and markedly in coloration. Although Bockemühl and Senghas (1988) treat *O. stenoglossum* as a subspecies of *Miltonioides leucomelas*, they base the subspecific name on an unpublished herbarium name. Until the relationship between these two taxa is better understood, it may be well to treat them as distinct species.

Trichocentrum

Trichocentrum nudum (Batem. ex Lindl.) Chase and N.H. Williams subsp. *stipitatum* (Lindl.), comb. nov. *Oncidium stipitatum* Lindl., Bot. Voy. Sulphur 172. 1843.

Trichocentrum stipitatum, of the former Panama Canal area, seems very distinct from the widespread *T. nudum*, of eastern Panama and northern South America. A zone of intergradation, however, occurs in the Pearl Archipelago and for about 50 km east of Panama City. Thus, we prefer to treat *stipitatum* as a subspecies of the widespread *T. nudum*.

Psygmorchis

Undoubtedly *Oncidium crista-galli* is closely allied to *Psygmorchis* and should be placed in the same genus. Williams et al. (2001) assign it, with all other species of *Psygmorchis*, to *Erycina*, noting that *O. crista-galli* agrees well with *Erycina hyalinobulbon* in leaf texture and in pseudobulbs without a terminal leaf. Leaf texture, unless most unusual, is a difficult feature to measure or compare; and the terminal leaf may be lacking in other Oncidiinae, especially *Ionopsis*. Striking differences are found between

the flower and inflorescence of *Erycina* (sensu stricto) and *Psygmorchis* (including *O. crista-galli*).

Seemingly and paradoxically, a policy of enthusiastic "lumping" may lead to the same problems as did enthusiastic "splitting" by ornithologists some decades ago. In either case, one must identify the species before being able to assign it to a genus. *Erycina* and *Psygmorchis* are clearly sister groups; but when kept as distinct genera, they are easily characterized and recognized.

Psygmorchis crista-galli (Rchb.f.) Dodson. Native Ecuadorian Orchids 4: 883. 2003 Synonyms: *Oncidium crista-galli* Rchb.f., Bot. Zeit. (Berlin) 10: 697. 1852; *Erycina crista-galli* (Rchb.f.) N.H. Williams & Chase, Lindleyana 16: 136. 2001.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We especially thank Rolando Jiménez, Gerardo Salazar, and Miguel Angel Soto for information and discussion of the Oncidiinae.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ayensu, E.S. and N.H. Williams. 1972. Leaf anatomy of *Palumbina* and *Odontoglossum* Subgenus *Osmoglossum*. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 41: 687–696.
- Bockemühl, L. and K. Senghas. 1988. *Miltonioides leucomelas* (Rchb.f.) Bockem. & Sengh. Orchideen Kartei 521–522, Beilage zu Orchidee 39(1).
- Williams, N.H., M.W. Chase, T. Fulcher and W.M. Whitten. 2001. Molecular systematics of the Oncidiinae based on evidence from four DNA sequence regions; expanded circumscription of *Cytochilum*, *Erycina*, *Otoglossum*, and *Trichocentrum* and a new genus (Orchidaceae). Lindleyana 16: 113–139.