

ENCYCLIA ROSARIENSIS (ORCHIDACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM CUBA¹

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ABSTRACT: A new species of the genus *Encyclia*, endemic to the Sierra del Rosario in Cuba, is described and illustrated. *Encyclia rosariensis* is similar to *Encyclia fucata*, from which it differs by the smaller size of the flowers and the cochleariform, completely white lip.

ENCYCLIA HOOK. is a Neotropical genus of some 140 species of which 20 to 25 have been reported for the Caribbean (Withner, 1996; Nir, 2000; Ackerman, pers. com.). Cuba has the greatest diversity of *Encyclia* in the Antilles, but the number of species reported has been controversial. Both Acuña (1938) and Brother León (1946) reported 19 species, but many of these names have passed to synonymy or turned out to be erroneous reports. Dietrich (1984) reported the existence of 22 taxa but many of these suffered the same fate as those listed by Acuña (1938) and León (1946). In his revision of Caribbean species, Withner (1996) recorded 11 species for Cuba of which six were considered to be endemic to the island [*Encyclia howardii* (Ames & Correll) Hoehne, *Encyclia ochrantha* (Richard) Withner, *Encyclia oxypetala* (Lindl.) Schltr., *Encyclia phoenicea* (Lindl.) Neum., *Encyclia pyriformis* (Lindl.) Schltr., and *Encyclia triangulifera* (Rchb.f.) Acuña]. Later, Mark Nir (2000) reported 13 species and at about the same time Mújica et al. (2000) offered up 17. Ackerman and Díaz (pers. com.) increased that to 18, which includes 12 endemics in their recently submitted manuscript for the Flora of the Greater Antilles. We expect the number to surpass 20 after further study, particularly of the *E. phoenicea* complex.

During fieldwork in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, we collected several specimens of *Encyclia* that we propose as new to science.

***Encyclia rosariensis* Mújica, Pérez & Pupulin, sp. nov.**

TYPE: CUBA. Prov. Pinar del Río, Municipality of Candelaria, northern slope of Mount El Salón, in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, originally collected 14 July 1997, flowered in cultivation at the Orquideario Soroa in July

2003, R. Pérez 122 (holotype, HOS-Herbario del Orquideario Soroa, no registrado; isotype, HOS-Spirit). (Figs. 1, 2B).

Species Encycliae fucatae (Lindl.) Britt. et Millsp. similis, sed floribus valde minoribus, labello cochleariformi niveo recedit.

Plants epiphytic, to 35 cm tall including inflorescence. *Roots* numerous, slender. *Rhizomes* ascendent, short. *Pseudobulbs* aggregate, ovate-pyriform, 4–6 cm long, subtended by scarious sheaths. *Leaves* 1–2, conduplicate at the base, linear-lanceolate, coriaceous, acute, 17–25 cm long, 1.5–1.8 cm wide. *Inflorescences* erect, panicle slender, multiflowered, to 30 cm long. *Floral bracts* small, clasping, triangular, acute, 1 mm long. *Flowers* small, showy, sepals and petals dull yellow with a reddish-brown suffusion darkening apically and bordered by dull yellow margins, labellum white, sometimes with a very pale purple suffusion, fragrance imperceptible. *Ovary* glabrous, 5–6 mm long. *Sepals* a dull yellow suffused with similar, oblanceolate-obovate, acute, concave, 8–9 mm long, 3.0–3.5 mm. *Petals* similar, spatulate, acute, concave, 7–8 mm long, 3.0–3.5 mm wide. *Labellum* free, 3-lobed, lateral lobes erect, oblong, subquadrate, embracing the column, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide; median lobe cochleate with undulate margins, emarginate, 6 mm long, 5–6 mm wide; disc bilamellate. *Column* winged, robust, 5 mm long, 2 mm diam.; anther yellowish; pollinia yellowish, waxy, 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet is dedicated to the place of origin, the Sierra del Rosario, an area rich in endemic species.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION: The species is apparently endemic to the Sierra del Rosario in the Province of Pinar del Río, Cuba. It grows epiphytically in evergreen forests at about 350 m elevation. Flowering occurs in July.

CONSERVATION STATUS: The type locality forms part of the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve which is thus far the only known site of this species. We do not yet know

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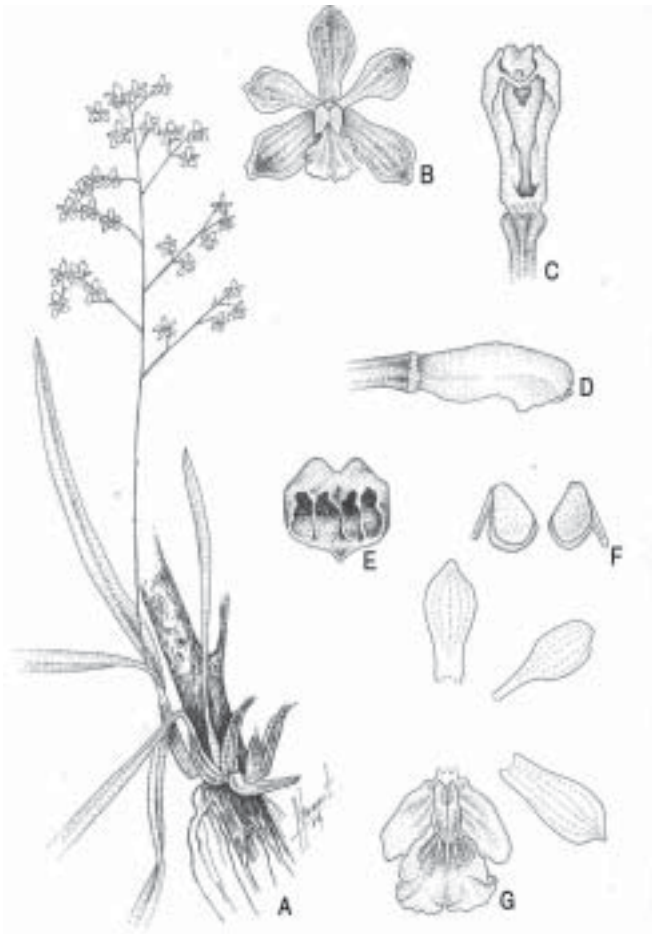


Fig. 1. *Encyclia rosariensis* Mújica, Pérez & Pupulin. A. Plant habit. B. Flower, front view. C. Column, ventral view. D. Column, side view. E. Anther cap, ventral view. F. Pollinaria. G. Perianth parts (dorsal sepal, petal, lateral sepal, labellum). Illustrated by José L. Bocourt.



Fig. 2A. Comparison of *Encyclia fucata* (Lindley) Britton & Millspaugh (left) with *Encyclia rosariensis* Mújica, Pérez & Pupulin. 2B. *Encyclia rosariensis*. Photographs: Ernesto Mújica.

the size of the population. Consequently, an assessment of its status awaits further study.

This species is similar to and has been confused with *Encyclia fucata*, a more common species with which it is sympatric. The former differs by its smaller flowers and its cochleate, completely white labellum (Fig. 2A).

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