

An attractive and richly patterned species of *Kefersteinia*, ironically known only from the grounds of an hotel noted for its orchid garden, has flowered in southern Peru and is described here.

***Kefersteinia koechlinorum* E. A. Christenson, sp. nov.**

TYPE: PERU: CUSCO: Aguas Calientes, property of the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, 2000 m, 13°10'51"S, 72°32'10"W, 2050 m, 25 May 1999, *Moises Quispe s.n.* (holotype: NY; isotype: K).

Species haec K. pellita Reichb.f. ex Dods. et D. E. Benn. similis sed sepalis petalisque vittatis et labello lobato differt.

Plants caespitose epiphytes forming dense clumps, typical for the genus. **Leaves** narrowly oblanceolate, decurrent-petiolate, acute, to 22.5 × 2 cm. **Inflorescences** suberect to laxly subpendent scapes, often produced in profusion, the floral bracts funnel-shaped, broadly obovate, obtuse, 0.5 cm long. **Flowers** semi-translucent pale brown, the sepals and petals striped with reddish brown for their length and suffused with reddish brown toward the apices, the lip similarly colored with a solid dark reddish brown center. **Dorsal sepal** narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, acute, shallowly concave, 1.3 × 0.6 cm, the lateral sepals obliquely oblong, obtuse, 2.1 × 0.5 cm. **Petals** oblong, abruptly acute, 1.9 × 0.7 cm. **Lip** obscurely lobed (see text), suborbicular in outline when flattened, emarginate, 1.4 × 1.4 cm, the apical lobe transversely reniform with anchoriform lateral margins, finely pubescent, minutely and irregularly denticulate, the callus rhombic, emarginate, with high arching lateral margins at the base, 0.3 cm long. **Column** stout, 1 cm long, with broadly rounded wings at the middle, 0.5 cm wide across the wings. **Pedicel** and ovary 1.3 cm long. **Fruit** not seen.

Etymology: Named for José and Denise Koechlin, proprietors of the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel in Aguas Calientes, for their on-going effort to educate the public about Peru's wondrous orchid diversity and the need for conservation.

Distribution: To date this species is only known from a plant that occurs naturally on the property of the

hotel, but it surely occurs elsewhere within the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and neighboring regions within the Department of Cusco.

This new species is most similar to *K. pellita* Reichb.f. ex Dods. & D. E. Benn., recorded from Ecuador and the northern half of Peru, in having dark, richly colored flowers and a finely pubescent lip and column. Unlike the lip of *K. pellita*, however, the lip of *K. koechlinorum* has a distinctly defined apical lobe. The lip of *K. pellita*, when flattened, is elliptic to elliptic-suborbicular without any lobing such that the appearance of lateral lobes is solely an illusion resulting from the transverse fold that forms the skirt typical of most species in the genus. In contrast, the lip of *K. koechlinorum* has a clearly defined apical lobe when flattened. The apical lobe is transversely reniform (kidney-shaped) with distinct anchoriform (anchor-shaped) lateral margins. In addition, the column wing margins of *K. pellita* are conspicuously pubescent, the pubescence visible in photographs, while those of *K. koechlinorum* are essentially glabrous.

The sepals and petals of *K. pellita* are variably mottled and/or spotted with reddish brown to purple. To date, *K. pellita* is known from just four clones: three herbarium collections cited by Bennett and Christenson (1998) and Dodson and Bennett (1989), and one cultivated plant from Peru in the collection of Marni Turkel in Santa Rosa, California. The markings on the sepals and petals of *K. pellita* range from reddish brown suffusion, to wine-purple spots coalescing into solid patches in the segment centers, to weakly formed broken stripes (in Turkel's clone). No known plant of *K. pellita* has the clearly defined, dark, unbroken stripes of *K. koechlinorum*.

In Cusco *K. koechlinorum* exhibits two distinct flowering seasons. The primary flowering occurs from September to November with a secondary burst of flowers from March to May.