

# A New Orchid Genus from the Ecuadorian Andes

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ECUADOR is one of the floristically richest countries of the Andes. There are some 800 to 900 species of orchids known from this South American country and yet in every collection of recent introductions there are a few species which were previously unknown from Ecuador or which represent species new to science.

Mr. Henry Teuscher, Curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden, Canada, spent a considerable time during 1956 in Ecuador exploring, collecting and importing a large number of botanical orchids. All of these, together with others prosperously growing in Montreal, find their way to my desk for classification from time to time. Among the recent introductions, a curious little orchid appeared which I could not identify with any known species from the American tropics. As a matter of fact, this collection exemplifies an exceptionally interesting new genus which I here describe together with its single representative and dedicate it to my good friend Henry Teuscher.

## *Teuscheria Garay, gen. nov.*

Sepalum posticum inferum, a sepalis lateralibus omnino liberum; sepala lateralalia lata, basi pedi columnae adnata, mentum fornicatum calcariforme formantia. Petala sepalis inclusa et angustiora. Labellum sepalis inclusum, superum, involutum, trilobum, ad apicem pedis columnae incurvum adnatumque et cum eo non articulatum. Columna brevis, crassa, basi in pedem longissimum apice incurvum producta; clinandrium vix evolutum, marginatum; rostellum valde productum, late triangulum. Pollinia 4, cerea, inaequalia, visco parco cohaerentia, sine glandula. Ovarium genuflexum. — Herbae epiphyticae, rhizomate abbreviato. Pseudobulbi oblique pyriformes, unifoliati. Folium plicatum, angustum, petiolatum. Inflorescentia singula, lateralis, uniflora. Flos satis conspicuus, resupinatus, a latere visus cornucopiam in mentem revocans.

Species singula, e regione Andium Ecuadorensum.

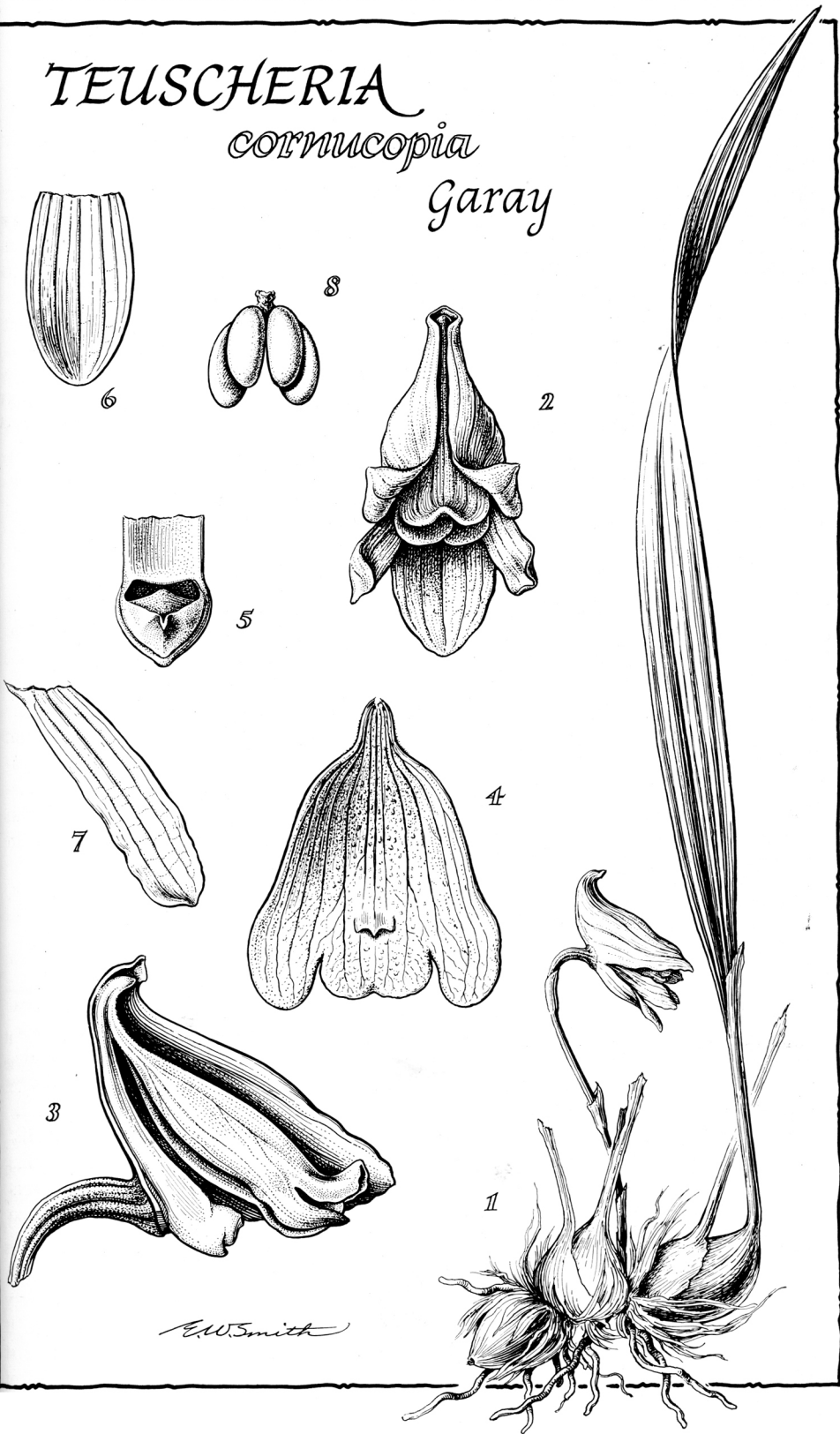
## *Teuscheria cornucopia* Garay, sp. nov.

Epiphytica, caespitosa, usque ad 20 cm. alta; rhizomate valde abbreviato; pseudobulbis aggregatis, oblique pyriformibus vel ovato-pyriformibus, monophyllis, ca. 2 cm. altis; folio lineari-oblongo, plicato, prominenter 3-nervio, 15 cm. longo, 1 cm. lato; inflorescentia singula, erecta vel paulo arcuata, gracili, in medio univaginata, 4 cm. longa; flore nutanti, satis conspicua, a latere visu cornucopiam in mentem revocante; sepalo postico elliptico vel obovato-elliptico, apice obtuso, 5-nervio, 14 mm. longo, 7 mm. lato; sepalis lateralibus obliquis, oblongo-ovatis, apice acutis, 5-nerviis, 16 mm. longis, basi 9 mm. latis; petalis lineari-oblongis, apice acutiusculis, 5-nerviis, 10 mm. longis, 4 mm. latis; labello cuneato-flabellato, antice 3-lobo, lobis lateralibus rotundatis, lobo terminali reniformi, in medio leviter retuso, disco

### *Explanation of Plate on Opposite Page.*

FIGURE 1, general habit of plant, natural size. FIG. 2, front view of flower,  $\times 2$ . FIG. 3, side view of flower with dorsal sepal, petals and one lateral sepal removed,  $\times 2$ . FIG. 4, lip expanded,  $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$ . FIG. 5, the apex of the column, much enlarged. FIG. 6, dorsal sepal,  $\times 2$ . FIG. 7, petal,  $\times 4$ . FIG. 8, pollinia, much enlarged.

TEUSCHERIA  
*cornucopia*  
Garay





FLOWER AND PLANT  
OF *TEUSCHERIA*  
*CORNUCOPIA*

supra medium callo 3-dentato ornato, toto labello 16 mm. longo, 15 mm. lato; columna humili, crassa, dorsaliter 4 mm. alta, basi in pedem longissimum producta; ovario cum pedicello ca. 1.5 cm. longo.

Ecuador: Western slopes of the Andes. 100 km. from Guayaquil. Altitude about 3,000 ft. Coll. H. Teuscher s.n. (Type in the Ames Herbarium no. 69,265.) The type material is cultivated in the collection of the Montreal Botanical Garden.—The above description is prepared from living material.

When I received this interesting plant, Mr. Teuscher wrote me the following: "Actually I have 3 little plants, each with 3 pseudobulbs, which grow together on the same piece of cork bark. The photograph showed the flower of the first plant. Now the second plant flowers and the third one is commencing to produce a bud. There is always only one flower and the most curious thing is that the flower does not come from this year's pseudobulb, which is completed and is now producing a new shoot, but in each case from the two-year-old pseudobulb. This is a very strange behavior. Another strange feature is that the pseudobulb, even when it is mature, is completely encased in a tight fitting tubular bract which does not burst but apparently expands with the growing pseudobulb. The narrow upper end of

this same bract also remains tubular and encloses the terete petiole of the single, grass-like leaf. A second basal bract of the pseudobulb stands stiffly upright, like a thorn, though it is not hard. The pseudobulb itself is green. Only the encasing bract is brown-spotted as you see it on the photograph. Notice that the flower is always upside down."

This new genus is quite unique vegetatively as well as florally among the genera of the subtribe *Phajae*. Vegetatively it shows some similarity to the American genus *Bletia*, but in floral characters it is very much removed from that relationship. In viewing the flower as it is depicted on the accompanying plate (FIG. 2), a resemblance to the Asiatic genus *Acanthephippium* is immediately recognizable. In both genera, *Acanthephippium* and *Teuscheria*, the column is produced into an elongated foot to which the lip is firmly adnate and the lateral sepals with the column-foot form a prominent mentum. However, *Acanthephippium*, besides the differences in vegetative growth, has a many-flowered inflorescence, with non-resupinate flowers and 8 pollinia per anther, whereas in *Teuscheria* the inflorescence is always terminated by a single resupinate flower and the anther contains only 4 pollinia. — *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium, Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass.*