

A CATASETUM NEW TO PERU

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CATASETUM IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW GENERA of the Orchid family which may have flowers of two forms in the same species. Sometimes a single plant of *Catasetum* produces one kind of flowers at one time and a totally different kind at another — one kind male and the other female. This phenomenon has given rise to much confusion in the exact identification of species.

Furthermore, this genus is unique in having many species which bear on the column of the male flowers a pair of more or less symmetrical down-curved tendrils or antennae. These organs, being sensitive to the touch of a visiting insect, cause the freeing and dispersal of the pollen. The Peruvian novelty under discussion is of this type and is further unusual in having a conical lip.

Catasetum coniforme C. Schweinfurth *sp. nov.*

Herba epiphytica, crassa. Caulis in pseudobulbum oblongo-ovoideum mox incrassatus, vaginis scariosis distichis omnino velatus. Folia sex, disticha, conferta, elliptico-lanceolata, acuminata, basi sensim petiolato-angustata, plicata. Inflorescentia lateralis, prope pseudobulbi basim inserta, arcuato-diffusa, supra subdense racemosa, pedunculo vaginis pluribus brevibus remotis ornato. Flores pro genere parvi, variegati, cum segmentis subgloboso-conniventibus. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-oblongum vel obovato-oblongum, valde acutum. Sepala lateralia similia, elliptico-lanceolata. Petala lanceolato-elliptica, breviter acuminata, apiculata. Labellum saccato-conicum, marginibus lateralibus erectis late rotundatis serratis, apice triangulari-acuto recurvo; discus basi late incrassatus. Columna arcuata, apice rostrata, dimidio inferiore cirris duobus decurvatis parallelis ornato.

Plant epiphytic, stout. Roots fibrous, stout, flexuous, glabrous. Stem thickened into an oblong-ovoid pseudobulb about 9 cm. long which is entirely concealed by distichous, broad, scarios imbricating sheaths, the upper sheaths being leaf-bearing. Leaves apparently 6, crowded, elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, gradually narrowed below to a subpetioled conduplicate base, up to 33 cm. long and 6.6 cm. wide, plicate with 5 conspicuous nerves. Inflorescence lateral, inserted near the base of the pseudobulb, diffuse-arcuate, racemose above, considerably shorter than the leaves; peduncle about 16 cm. long, provided with 7 short, close, mostly remote tubular-infundibuliform sheaths; raceme about 8.4 cm. long, subdensely 15-flowered. Floral bracts small, scarios, lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate. Flowers rather small for the genus with subglobose-connivent segments, greenish-gray tinged with red-violet, the inside being orange spotted with brown-red. Sepals concave and incurved. Dorsal sepal elliptic-oblong or obovate-oblong, acute or short-acuminate, about 2.5 cm. long and 9 mm. wide, many-nerved. Lateral sepals similar, elliptic-lanceolate, about 2.5 cm. long and 1 cm. wide, slightly oblique. Petals lanceolate-elliptic, short-acuminate, apiculate, about 2.4 cm. long and 1.15 cm. wide. Lip saccate-conical in natural position with the deepest portion near the front, about 1.3 cm. long and subequally deep, suborbicular-ovate when viewed from above, broadly rounded below with erect sides, triangular-acute with a small recurved apex, the margins (except near the base and apex) irregularly serrate; disc with a broad callose thickening at the base. Column about as long as the lip, arcuate, uncinately-



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE

FIGURE 1, habit, $\times \frac{1}{2}$. FIG. 2, dorsal sepal, $\times 1$. FIG. 3, lateral sepal, $\times 1$. FIG. 4, petal, $\times 1$. FIG. 5, lip and column, side view, $\times 1$. FIG. 6, lip and column, front view, $\times 1$. FIG. 7, anther, from below, $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$. FIG. 8, pollinia and stipe, $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$.

rostrate above, with a pair of short appressed parallel, decurved antennae below the stigmatic cavity. Anther with abrupt linear-terete beak. Pollinia 2, obliquely oblong-obovoid, complanate, deeply sulcate.

LORETO: Vicinity of Iquitos, at 100 meters altitude, March 1937, *G. Klug 10096*. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 61893.)

Catasetum coniforme appears to be allied to *C. cirrhaeoides* Hoehne but has a much longer scape, larger flowers, and serrate margins on the lip. The specific name is in allusion to the saccate-conical lip. — *Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.*