

A NEW SPECIES OF *SCELOCHILUS* (ORCHIDACEAE)
FROM FRENCH GUYANA

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Scelochilus ecalcaratus Determann, sp. nov.

Inter species *Scelochili* Kl. species haec floribus ecalcaratis notabilis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, pendent, very shortly repent, the rhizome stout, ca. 1 mm long between pseudobulbs. Immature plant equitant without an obvious pseudobulb; mature plant with a close series of narrow, compressed pseudobulbs, 15 mm long, 3 mm wide, unifoliate, surrounded at the base by ca. 4 imbricating, distichous, conduplicate, leafy sheaths, green, coriaceous, dotted with purple, 2.5-6 cm long, 0.4-0.7 cm wide, the apical leaf conduplicate, narrowly elliptical, acute, similarly colored, 10-15 cm long, 1.5 cm wide. Inflorescence produced laterally from between leaf-sheaths at the base of either the mature or the immature pseudobulb, the peduncle 1-flowered in the specimen seen, 5-7 cm long with 1-3 clasping bracts. Sepals translucent and pale yellow, elliptical, subacute, the dorsal sepal 8 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals 5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide. Petals pale yellow with wine-red dots, broadly elliptical, obtuse, the margins slightly undulate. Labellum obovate, 7 mm long, 4 mm wide, the apex obtuse, the margins lightly undulate, cuneate below to the narrow base, the disc yellow with a pair of longitudinal, wine-red calli from the base to near a small pair of yellow rounded calli at the center.

Etymology: From the Latin *ecalcaratus*, "spurless," referring to the character of the flower.

TYPE: FRENCH GUYANA : Saul, Tracé de la Fumée, epiphytic on mossy tree limbs in seasonally dry forest, alt. ca. 150 m, 22 July 1979, R. O. Determann 106 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

Distribution: French Guyana.

The genus *Scelochilus* consists of about 30 species in the Neotropics and is closely related to *Rodriguezia* Ruiz & Pav.

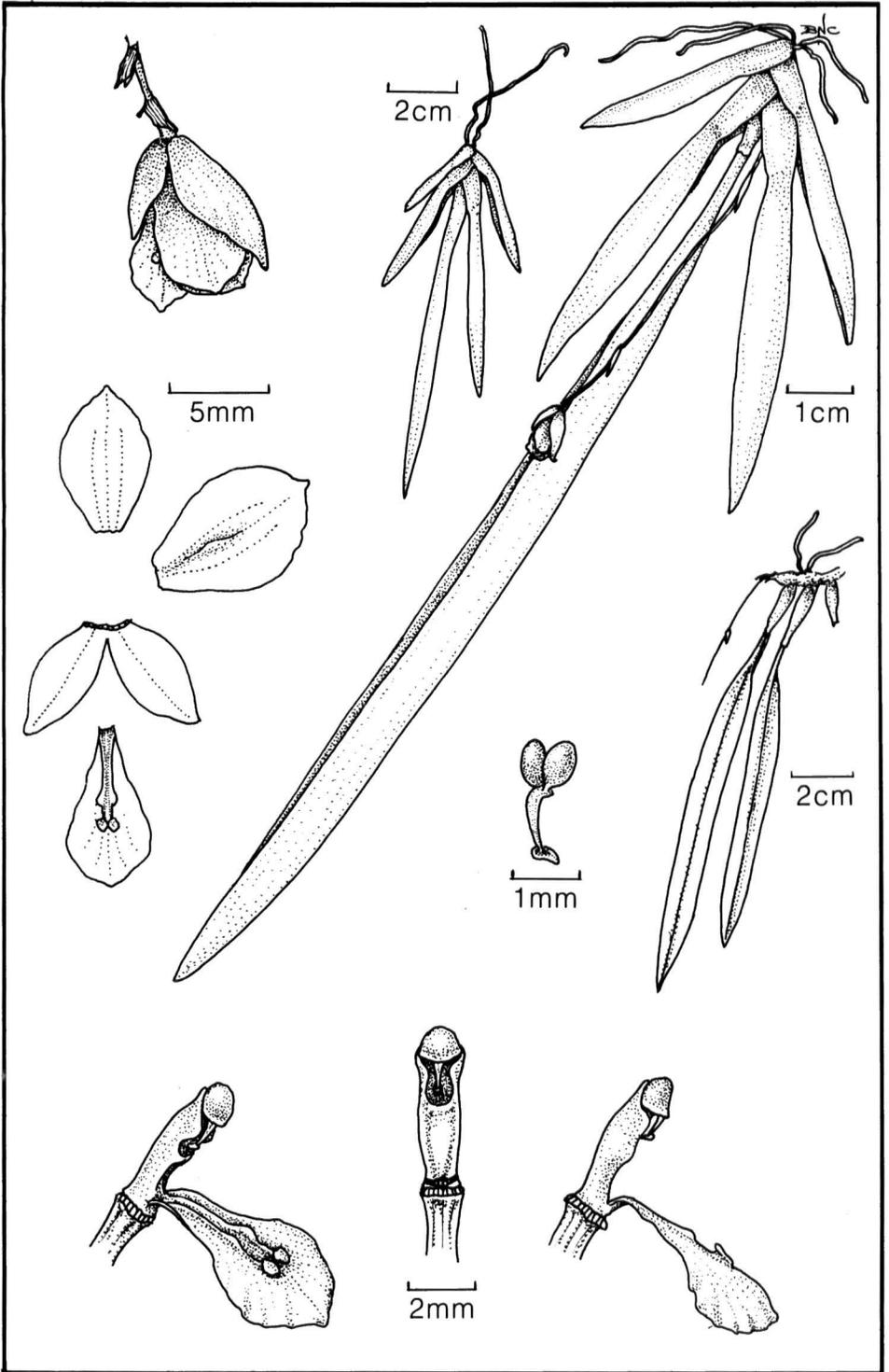
Species of *Scelochilus* are usually small, relatively rare, seldom collected and consequently poorly known.

Juvenile forms are equitant and mature forms pseudobulbous and both forms are capable of producing a lateral inflorescence.

All species found so far have a spur, variously composed of the lateral sepals, the lip or often with an extended column foot, thus forming a so-called mentum. The species observed here differs in lacking any kind of spur. Habit of the plant and structure of the calli on the lip justify, however, its placement within the genus.

Sterile plants, presumably of this species, have been found in Suriname in the Raleigh Falls-Voltzberg Preservation. It is likely that this is the same species since no other representatives of the genus have been reported from Suriname.

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SCELOCHILUS ECALCARATUS Determann