



## *Encyclia fimbriata* (Orchidaceae: Laeliinae), a new large-flowered species from Bahia, Brazil

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### Abstract

A new orchid species from Brazil, *Encyclia fimbriata*, is described and illustrated. It is known only from montane rain forest in southern Bahia. Flower morphology, especially the fringed midlobe of the labellum, crested callus and teeth of the clinandrium, distinguish it from any other species of the genus.

**Key words:** Epiphytes, flora of Bahia, Neotropics

### Resumo

Uma nova espécie de orquídea do Brasil, *Encyclia fimbriata*, é descrita e ilustrada. Esta é somente conhecida de floresta montana do sul da Bahia. A morfologia da flor, especialmente o lobo medial do labelo fimbriado, o calo sinuoso e os dentes do clinândrio, a diferenciam de todas as demais espécies do gênero.

**Palavras-chave:** Epífitas, flora da Bahia, Neotrópico

### Introduction

*Encyclia* is the second largest genus in the Neotropical subtribe Laeliinae, being surpassed only by *Epidendrum* (Dressler 1993, Pridgeon *et al.* 2003, Chase *et al.* 2004). Many *Encyclia* species have ornamental value due to their large and showy flowers. There are about 120 species occurring from Florida, Mexico and West Indies to Brazil and northern Argentina (Withner 1998, 2000, van den Berg & Carnevali F.-C. 2005). Barros *et al.* (2010) listed 54 species for Brazil, of which 42 are endemic, and 14 occur in Bahia State.

Species of *Encyclia* are adapted to many habitats and often occur in extreme conditions such as dry and seasonally dry forests and flooded forests. In Brazil, many epiphytic species occur in deciduous or semi-deciduous forests in seasonally dry areas. Other species grow on exposed rocks as facultative epiphytes (Higgins *et al.* 2003). Overall, *Encyclia* species can be characterized by being epiphytic, lithophytic or terrestrial herbs with globose, ovoid or pyriform pseudobulbs with 1–4 apical, fleshy leaves, simple or double racemes, that can be rarely shorter or usually much longer than the leaves, and medium to large showy, fragrant flowers. The generic name refers to the labellum that surrounds the column (van den Berg & Carnevali F.-C. 2005), the former is trilobed and free or slightly adnate to the base of the column.

During work being carried out for a revision of the Brazilian species of *Encyclia*, we found a specimen in the CEPEC herbarium (Comissão Executiva do Plano da Lavoura Cacaueira—CEPLAC, Ilhéus, Bahia) in southern Bahia that is an undescribed species of the genus.