



***Prescottia ecuadorensis*: a new species of *Prescottia* (Cranichidinae, Orchidaceae) from Ecuador**

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Abstract

Prescottia ecuadorensis, a new orchid species from Loja, Ecuador, is described.

Key words: Orchidaceae, Neotropics, new orchid species, terrestrial orchids

Introduction

Prescottia is a Neotropical genus of mainly terrestrial orchids. The species are characterized by greenish to whitish, non-resupinate flowers, cucullate lip, entire stigmatic surface, and four pollinia. The genus is widespread, with species occurring from Florida (USA) to Argentina. Three species have been recorded for Ecuador: *Prescottia lojana* Dodson (1996: 108), *P. oligantha* (Swartz 1788: 120) Lindley (1840: 454) and *P. stachyodes* (Swartz 1788: 120) Lindley (1836: 1916). A fourth species has been discovered and is described here.

Taxonomy

Prescottia ecuadorensis* C.O.Azevedo & Van den Berg, *sp. nov.

Prescottia lojana et *P. stachyodes* foliis longe petiolatis et floribus viridibus cum labello intus glabro similis et illa labello cum vena centrali prominenti praesertim similis. Ab *P. stachyodes* labello sine vena prominenti et ab ambabus folio deltoide (in *P. lojana* folio ovato et *P. stachyodes* folio elliptico-ovato), praeterea ab utroque speciebus scilicet seminis intercellularibus spatiis destituta differt.

Type:—ECUADOR. Loja: Parque Nacional Podocarpus, Vicinity of Lagunas de Compadre, ca. 6 hours walking from centro de información, 21 November 1989, *Madsen & Pedersen* 86457 (holotype MO 4645295!). Fig. 1.

Terrestrial herb. Leaves non-articulate, at least 2, basal, petiolate; petiole 3.2–3.5 cm long; blade 3.7–4.0 × 2.7–3.3 cm, fleshy to coriaceous, deltoid, apex acute, base truncate. Inflorescence terminal, erect, dense, at least 55-flowered; peduncle at least 19.0 × 0.4–0.5 cm; peduncle bracts at least 6, 20–40 × 8–10 mm, ovate, apex acute; raceme at least 8.0 × 1.2 cm. Flower bracts 5.9–6.1 × 2.2–2.5 mm, ovate, apex acute. Flower sessile, erect, non-resupinate; dorsal sepal strongly revolute 2.9–3.2 × 1.0 mm, lanceolate to oblong, apex obtuse, lateral sepals basally connate, forming a sepaline cup, adpressed to the lip, strongly revolute, 3.7–4.0 × 1.0–1.2 mm, lanceolate to ovate, apex obtuse; petals strongly revolute, 2.9–3.0 × 0.8 mm, linear, apex obtuse; lip 3.0–3.5 × 1.8–2.3 mm, fleshy, midvein prominent, deeply concave, cucullate, enclosing column, inner