



***Dracula agnosia* (Orchidaceae: Pleurothallidinae), a long confused undescribed species**

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Abstract

Dracula agnosia, long confused with *D. olmosii*, is formally described. The two species may be easily distinguished by their sepal morphology.

Key words. Bocas del Torro, Finca Dracula, Neotropical orchids, Panama

Introduction

Dracula Luer (1978: 190) is an orchid genus with over 130 species recorded thus far from Mexico southward to Peru. Species are popular among orchid collectors, and the species described here was first introduced as *Dracula olmosii* Luer & Maduro in Luer (1999: 136) in the early 2000s. The plant became widespread in cultivation and often appeared in place of the true *D. olmosii* on internet orchid databases and online orchid catalogs (Woodstream Orchids 2002; *Dracula* Species Database 2006; J&L Orchids 2006; IOSPE 2007; Epidendra 2009).

Confusion surrounding the identity of *Dracula olmosii* was revealed after a survey of the *Dracula* species grown at Finca Dracula, Panama. The late Andrew Maduro (the owner of Finca Dracula) suspected that the two species were different because of the different colors of the sepals and distinct origins in Bocas del Torro; no intermediate forms have ever been noted. The two species have been grown intermixed at Finca Dracula for over a decade, and volunteer seedlings showing intermediate characters have not been observed even though capsules do form and seedlings successfully germinate. The reported collection site for the undescribed species was revisited to confirm that the collection data were correct, and a wild population was discovered. Plant material was not collected, but an individual from the wild population is represented in Figure 2.

Description

***Dracula agnosia* A.Doucette, sp. nov. (Figs. 1–3)**

A Dracula olmosii sepalis stramineis et pubescentia breviora densioreque differt.

Type:— PANAMA: Chiriqui: Guadalupe, gathered from material cultivated at Finca Dracula, reported from the Province of Bocas del Torro, sendero Bocas del Toro, camino a valle libre, sendero 2 Oceanos, ca. 1900 m., 1 Nov 2011, Doucette 4001 (holotype: BH!; isotypes: PMA!, WIS; currently in cultivation at Finca Dracula; Figs. 1, 3).