



New *Crepidium* species (Orchidaceae, Malaxidinae) from the Island of Negros, Philippines

HANNA B. MARGOŃSKA

C411, Department of Plant Taxonomy and Nature Conservation, Faculty of Biology, University of Gdańsk, ul. Wita Stwosza 59, 80-308 Gdańsk, Poland; E-mail: hanna.b.margonska@biol.ug.edu.pl

Introduction

In 2013, when Mr Ravan Schneider with his wife Josephine came back from their photo tour on the Samar Island National Park (Philippines), they made a short stop in the small village of Marabut. At the food kiosk, Schneider came across in the garden next door some terrestrial orchids. Among others, there was a *Crepidium* plant with conspicuous leaf coloration. One of the plants had a fresh inflorescence, and he asked the owner if he could have this plant. The owner of the plants said that the plants came from about 10 kilometres from Marabut on a logging and mining road. Schneider was given the plant, which was luck because after typhoon Haynan (2013) not much remained of Marabut. In his garden the plants grew well. Upon blooming in November 2013, the plants and flowers were photographed, samples of the plant were dried and some flowers additionally were preserved in Copenhagen mixture for detailed study.

Schneider sent the author samples of this beautiful orchid and many high-quality photos, accompanied by a request for determination of the species. Without any doubt, the orchid belongs to *Crepidium* Blume (1825: 387) *sensu* Szlachetko (1995). This Paleotropical genus is widely represented in continental Southeast Asia and throughout Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea to Australia, Polynesia and Micronesia. It contains about 220 species, among which nearly 30 occur in the Philippines. After comparing Schneider's material with those in the literature and specimens from the Philippines and surrounding areas, it seems clear that this is a previously unrecorded species, and I describe it here.

Crepidium ravanii Margońska, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–3)

Plants similar to *Crepidium obovatum*, but with leaves oblique ovate-lanceolate and leaf blade violet, green spotted above. Petals obtrullate.

Lip hippocrepiform, ovate in general outline; midlobe apically shortly split, on each side of the midlobe base with 2, short teeth of lateral lobes; lateral lobes distinctly auriculate.

Type:—PHILIPPINES. Samar Island: Samar National Park, about 10 kilometre from the village of Marabut, flowered in cultivation by R. Schneider, November 2013, *Schneider s.n.* (holotype UGDA-HBM!, isotype UGDA-HBM spirit coll.!)

Terrestrial herbs, 20–31 cm tall (including inflorescence). Pseudobulbs 3.0–8.5 (ascending part) × 0.4–0.6 cm, fusiform, with a dark violet-brown flush in places accessible to sunlight. Leaves (3)5–7(9), leaf blade ca. 4.0–6.0(8.0) × 1.8–2.5(3.0) cm, oblique, ovate to oblong-ovate, long attenuate, acuminate, margins distinctly undulate, cordate at base, satin glossy, violet-brown to purple-violet, irregularly green spotted above when exposed to sunlight, purple-violet beneath. Inflorescence 16–21 cm, racemose, 4–9 cm long, 15–30-flowered. Flowers 0.75–0.90 cm in diameter. Tepals distinctly glossy. Sepals 3-veined, yellow to usually apricot, always with a dark purple to violet flush. Dorsal sepal 0.35–0.48 × 0.30–0.40 cm, ovate, obtuse to subapiculate. Lateral sepals 0.32–0.46 × 0.35–0.42 cm, oblique, broadly ovate to ovate, obtuse to subapiculate. Petals 0.30–0.42 × 0.36–0.46 cm, obtrullate, subapiculate, 3-veined, dark yellow to apricot. Lip 0.48–0.52 × 0.4–0.43 cm, hippocrepiform, dark yellow to apricot, midlobe semi-elliptic, apically incurved and narrowly divided (up to ca. 1/3–2/5 of midlobe length) into 2 teeth that are apically obtuse and overlapping, lateral lobes semi-elliptic, distally with a small internal tooth that not extends to 1/2 of the midlobe length, triangular, somewhat falcate, acute, both external teeth small, oblique, triangular, acute to subobtuse, auricles

Etymology:—Dedicated to Mr. Ravan Schneider, the Philippines orchid expert, who discovered this orchid.

Distribution:—Known so far only from the type collection; Probably endemic to the area around the village of Marabut, Samar Island, Philippines.

Notes:—Representatives of subtribe Malaxidinae infrequently have broad petals, e.g. obovate or obtrullate. This feature occurs only in some species of *Pseudoliparis* Finet (1907: 536) *sensu* Szlachetko & Margońska (1999), *Crepidium* or *Malaxis* Solander & Swartz (in Swartz 1788: 119, Margońska *et al.* 2012). The newly proposed species is likely to belong to section *Commelinodes* (Schlechter 1911 (1914): 112-113) Szlachetko (1995: 123), subsection *Lowiae* Margońska in Margońska & Szlachetko (2010: 4-5) and seems to be similar to *Crepidium obovatum* (Smith 1903: t. 108D) Szlachetko (1995: 129), which has obovate petals and conspicuous leaf coloration. However, this species is endemic to western Java only and is not common as herbarium or pickled material, but it is cultivated for the beautiful colour of the plant and flowers. Its leaves are also oblique, ovate to lanceolate, but iridescent and shiny, bronze above, with the middle part slightly paler and more greenish, greenish-celadon, beneath whereas flowers are greenish-yellow, bright yellow to ochre-yellow when older. The lip of *Crepidium obovatum* is characteristic and different from the newly proposed species in colour: bright yellow, honey-yellow to ochre-yellow, more intensely coloured around the cavity convexity, close to the external margins of the lateral lobes with a large, oblong, pink to purple spot, which has a bright whitish border. The lip midlobe is larger, also apically incurved and narrowly divided (up to ca. 1/4 of its length). Both lateral lip lobes have correspondingly distally an internal single tooth that is differently well developed, triangular, extending to about the centre of the midlobe.

Despite the destruction of typhoon Haynan, I hope in the coming visits Schneider will find the exact origin of this species or other habitats with orchids. Until such a time, his collections will have a particularly important scientific and conservation value.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Ravan Schneider and his wife, Josephine, for bringing this material to my attention and providing the material necessary for description of the new species; I also wish to thank the curators and staff at A, AAU, AK, AMES, B, BISH, BM, BO, BP, BR, C (especially C-GS), E, F, FI, G, GB, GH, HBG, K, L, MO, P, PAP, SING, TJ, UGDA, UPS, US, WU and W (especially W-R), Z, for loan of material and their hospitality during my research visits, which helped me collect data for this article. I am also obliged to the librarians of all libraries I visited.

References

- Blume, C.L. (1825) Orchideen. *Bijdragen tot de flora van Nederlandsch Indië, Batavia*: 285–434.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.395>
- Finet, A. (1907) Orchidees nouvelles ou peu connues. *Bulletin de la Société Botanique de France* 54: 531–537.
- Margońska, H.B., Kowalkowska, A.K., Górniak, M., Rutkowski, P. (2012) *Taxonomic redefinition of subtribe Malaxidinae (Orchidales, Orchidaceae)*. Koeltz, Koenigstein, 606 pp.
- Margońska, H.B., Szlachetko, D.L. (2010) Two new combinations and a new subsection in *Crepidium* (Orchidaceae, Malaxidinae). *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien, ser. Bot. 111 B.*: 175–180.
- Smith, J.J. (1903) *Icones Bogorienses* 2. Kebun Raya Indonesia. 328 pp.
- Solander, D.L. & Swartz, O. in Swartz O. (1788) *Nova genera et species plantarum seu prodromus*. Orchidaceae. Holmiae, Upsala & Abo, pp 118–126.
- Schlechter, R. 1911 (1914) Die Orchidaceen von Deutsch Neu Guinea. *Repertorium Specierum Novarum Regni Vegetabilis, Beihefte 1*: 1–1079.
- Szlachetko, D.L. (1995) *Systema orchidalium. Fragmenta Floristica et Geobotanica Suppl. 3*, 152 pp.
- Szlachetko, D.L. & Margońska, H.B. (1999) Redefinition of the genus *Pseudoliparis* Finet, with descriptions of new species. *Adansonia ser.3*, 21: 275–282.