



## *Psilochilus dressleri* (Orchidaceae), a new species from the Darién Gap, Panama

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### Abstract

A new species, *Psilochilus dressleri*, is described and illustrated. It resembles *P. macrophyllus*, but both species differ in the lip form.

### Introduction

The Darién Gap (Spanish: *Tapón del Darién*) is biologically one of the poorest recognized areas of the world. It embraces border regions of Colombia and Panama, but the exact limits of the region have never been defined. It is part of the Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena biodiversity hotspot (formerly Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador), which extends from the Panamanian Province of Darién through the Chocó region of western Colombia, along the west coast of Ecuador and the dry forests of eastern Ecuador to the northwestern part of Peru. The region as a whole in Panamanian territory is still relatively understudied in the aspect of its orchid diversity, especially when compared to the neighboring Colombia and Costa Rica. The most recent catalogue of Orchidaceae occurring in Costa Rica was compiled by Dressler (2003) and contains 1,318 species. A Colombian list of orchids was published by Ortiz-Valdivieso & Uribe-Vélez (2007), and contained over 3,500 taxa. In the catalogue of Panamanian vascular plants (Correa *et al.*, 2004) 1,150 orchid species were included.

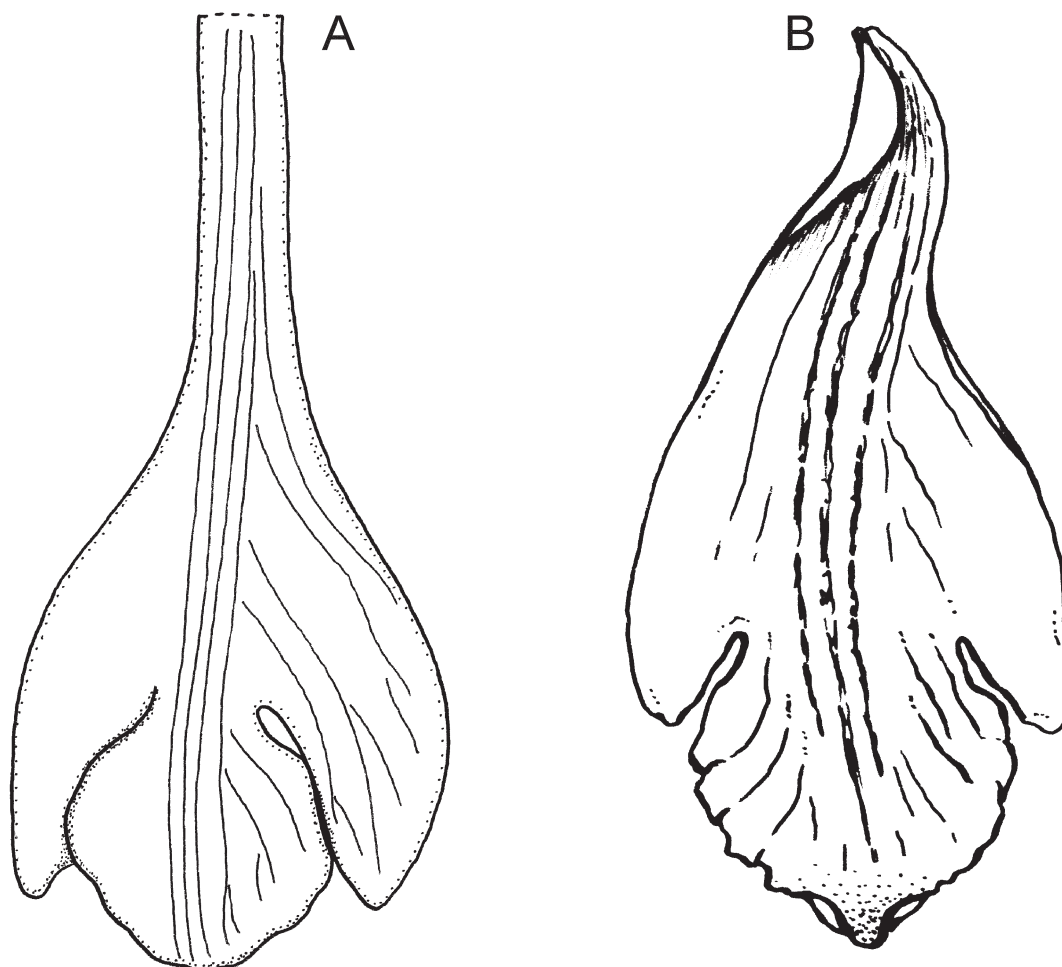
Duke & Porter (1970) reported the occurrence of 66 orchid species from Panamanian part of the Darién Gap, and recently this number was elevated to 115 by Correa *et al.* (2004). In neither catalogue any representative of *Psilochilus* Barbosa Rodrigues (1882: 272) was reported from this region. This genus was described in 1882 (Barbosa Rodrigues 1882) based on *P. modestus* Barbosa Rodrigues (1882: 273), but its representatives were most often included in *Pogonia* Jussieu (1789: 65) by Cogniaux (1906) and Williams (1970) or in *Cleisthes* Richard ex Lindley (1840: 409) by Pfitzer (1887). The reestablishment of *Psilochilus* was proposed by Ames (1922). Representatives of this Neotropical genus are characterized by the slender, erect stem that is remotely several-leaved. The leaves are fleshy, sessile or petiolate, sheathing at the base. The resupinate flowers are arranged in a terminal raceme. Petals and sepals are subsimilar and free. The lip is clawed and 3-lobed. The gynostemium is elongate, slender, slightly swollen at the apex. Four narrowly oblong or two bipartite, powdery pollinia are produced (Szlachetko & Rutkowski 2000, Pansarin & Amaral 2008). The thin flowers of *Psilochilus* that are often damaged in the dried material are the reason for the problems with estimation of the actual diversity of this taxon. Recent studies on those orchids revealed the existence of several undescribed species in northern South America and Central America (Kolanowska 2013, Kolanowska & Szlachetko 2012, 2013). During the revision of herbarium material deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History a distinctive species of *Psilochilus* was found and it is here described as new.

### Taxonomic Treatment

*Psilochilus dressleri* Kolan., *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

Species similar to *P. macrophyllus* (Lindl.) Ames, distinguished by distinctly clawed lip with prominent lateral lobes that extend up to two-thirds of the mid-lobe and relatively small mid-lobe suborbicular in outline.

**Type:**—PANAMA. Darién: Ridge north of Cerro Pirre, 1050–1200 m, 12 July 1977. *R.L. Dressler 5663* (holotype FLAS!).



**FIGURE 2.** Comparison of the lip shape of *Psilochilus dressleri* (A. Drawn from the holotype) and *P. macrophyllus* (B, redrawn by A. Król from Ames & Correll 1952).

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