



A revision of *Prescottia* (Orchidaceae: Orchidoideae, Cranichideae)

CECÍLIA OLIVEIRA DE AZEVEDO¹, CÁSSIO VAN DEN BERG² & FÁBIO DE BARROS³

¹Departamento de Ciências Naturais, Universidade Estadual do Sudoeste da Bahia, Estrada do Bem-Querer, Km 4, s/n, Bairro Universitário, Vitória da Conquista, 45.083-900, Bahia, Brazil: E-mail: cazevedo@uesb.edu.br

²Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Av. Transnordestina s.n., Novo Horizonte, 44.036-900, Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil

³Instituto de Botânica, Seção de Orquidário do Estado. Av. Miguel Estefano, 3687. Água Funda. 04301-012 - São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Abstract

This study of *Prescottia* is based on fieldwork, *in situ* observations and study of herbarium material. Fifteen species are recognised for *Prescottia*: *P. carnosa*, *P. densiflora*, *P. ecuadorensis*, *P. glazioviana*, *P. lancifolia*, *P. leptostachya*, *P. lojana*, *P. montana*, *P. mucugensis*, *P. oligantha*, *P. ostenii*, *P. phleoides*, *P. plantaginifolia*, *P. spiranthophylla*, and *P. stachyodes*. Seven lectotypifications, one neotypification, and six new synonymies are proposed. *Prescottia spiranthophylla* is re-established, and three *nomina nuda* are listed. Descriptions, a key to the species, illustrations, and distribution maps are provided.

Introduction

The orchid tribe Cranichideae has historically been previously placed in subfamilies Neottioideae (Lindley 1840a, Benthams 1881, Schlechter 1926, Garay 1960, Dressler 1974) or Spiranthoideae (Dressler 1979, 1981, 1990, 1993, Szlachetko 1995). However, recent morphological and molecular phylogenetic studies have provided evidence for its inclusion into an expanded concept of Orchidoideae (Dressler 1986, Dressler & Chase 1995, Kores *et al.* 1997, 2000, 2001, Cameron & Chase 1999, Freudenstein & Rasmussen 1999, Freudenstein *et al.* 2000, Chase *et al.* 2003).

Cranichideae *sensu* Chase *et al.* (2003), the most recent classification of Orchidaceae, include about 1,643 species of mainly terrestrial orchids distributed on all continents (excluding Antarctica), but they are especially diverse in the tropical and subtropical regions of America and Asia (Dressler 1993). Overall, their circumscription agrees with subtribal limits set previously by Schlechter (1926), except for the recognition of a new subtribe, Prescottiinae (Dressler 1990), to accommodate several genera formerly included in Cranichidinae. Subtribes Goodyerinae and Spiranthinae are both widespread, whereas Cranichidinae and Prescottiinae are restricted to the Neotropics, and Manniellinae and Pachyplectroninae are endemic to tropical Africa and New Caledonia, respectively. *Prescottia* is unusual among the related genera in that the genera occur at higher elevations in the Andes.

Lindley described *Prescottia* in 1824 based on *Prescottia plantaginifolia* (Lindley *in* Hooker 1824). Later Lindley (1836, 1840a) transferred to the genus two additional species, originally described (Swartz 1788) in *Cranichis*, *C. stachyodes* Sw. and *C. oligantha* Sw. After that, most treatments of *Prescottia* were carried out only in the context of regional floras, without any attempt to evaluate previous taxonomic views.

Available treatments of *Prescottia* within country boundaries are the following: Barbosa Rodrigues, Brazil (1881); Cogniaux, Brazil (1895); Cogniaux, Brazil (1907); Fawcett & Rendle, Jamaica (1910); Gale & Baldomero, Cuba (1938); Hoehne, Brazil (1945); Williams, Panama (1946); Williams, Mexico (1951); Hodge, Dominica, British West Indies (1953); Schweinfurth (1958 - Peru); Dunsterville & Garay, Venezuela (1959, 1966); Britton & Millspaugh, Bahamas (1962); Correll, Guatemala and British Honduras (1965); Schweinfurth, Guayana (1967); Adams, Jamaica (1972); Garay & Sweet, Lesser Antilles (1974); Hamer, El Salvador (1974); Pabst & Dungs, Brazil (1975); Garay, Ecuador (1978); Hamer, Nicaragua (1984, 1985); Werkhoven, Suriname (1986); Ackerman, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (1989, 1995); Cremers & Hoff, French Guiana (1992); Gloudon & Tobisch, Jamaica (1995); McLeish *et al.*, Belize (1995); Bennett & Christenson, Peru (1998); Espejo-Serna & López-Ferrari, Mexico (1998); Jørgensen & León-Yáñez, Ecuador (1999); Balick *et al.*, Belize (2000) Carnevali & Romero, Venezuela (2000); Dix & Dix, Guatemala

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