



Nomenclatural notes in the Pleurothallidinae (Orchidaceae): *Stelis*

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Abstract

Nomenclatural changes are made in order to place within *Stelis* a series of species that belong to it in the sense of *Genera Orchidacearum*, and without previous available names in that genus. New species, names and combinations are proposed, a short discussion for the reasoning is given.

Key words: *Crocodelanthe*, *Dracontia*, *Effusiella*, *Niphantha*, *Pleurothallis*, *Stelis*, taxonomy

Introduction

Since the publication of the reclassification of subtribe Pleurothallidinae by Pridgeon & Chase (2001), based on Pridgeon *et al.* (2001), several subsequent studies have placed hundreds of additional pleurothallids in a DNA-based phylogenetic context (Stenzel 2004, Abele 2007, Chiron *et al.* 2012, Bogarín *et al.* 2013, Karremans *et al.* 2013, Karremans 2014). Together those studies suggest that although refinement is necessary in many groups, the generic framework presented by Pridgeon (2005) is maintained in general terms. Many alternative generic concepts proposed later although mostly indicative of species' relatedness, frequently lack a phylogenetic framework, and although useful are almost impossible to use by themselves (Luer 2004, 2006, 2007). Not having one stable classification system creates confusion among authors and has led to hundreds of species needing transfers from one system to the other in order to be able to use the names comparably.

Some large and highly diverse genera, such as *Stelis* Swartz (1799: 239), are good candidates for finer splitting. However, for the time being we have no fully comprehensible alternative classification of the genus. On one hand, genera like *Crocodelanthe* Reichenbach (1854: 113–114), *Dracontia* (Luer 1986: 38) Luer (2004: 257) and *Salpistele* Dressler (1979: 6) form natural groups, that are easy to recognize and are largely monophyletic. On the other hand, genera like *Effusiella* Luer (2007: 106) and *Elongatia* Luer (2004: 257) have been amply proven poly- and paraphyletic (Karremans *et al.* 2013). As species of the above mentioned are interrelated, acceptance of the monophyletic genera would require the recognition of several other generic concepts along the way, which can only be done with a much broader and integral systematic study of the whole clade. Even though better defined and informative generic circumscriptions are preferable, for the time being no other stable and all inclusive systematic proposal for *Stelis* is available. A broad circumscription of *Stelis*, albeit harder to define morphologically, is more phylogenetically accurate, and is therefore preferred (Karremans 2014). I am therefore transferring the species that although clearly not belonging to *Stelis* in a strict sense, are embedded within *Stelis* in its broad sense (Pridgeon 2005).

Taxonomic Treatment

Stelis brenneri (Luer) Karremans, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Pleurothallis brenneri* Luer (1976: 64).

Stelis hydra (Karremans & C.M.Sm.) Karremans, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Dracontia hydra* Karremans & Smith (2012: 13–15).

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