



Correspondence

Validation of *Dracula trigonopetala* (Orchidaceae: Pleurothallidinae) with an English diagnosis and description

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Dracula trigonopetala was first proposed on 3 January 2012 in an electronic (pdf) file released by *OrchideenJournal* (Meyer *et al.* 2012a). In this, the name was associated with a diagnosis and description in English, but the pdf lacked a volume number and pagination. Thus, the name was not effectively published. When a printed copy of the journal was released on 15 August 2012 (Meyer *et al.* 2012b), the diagnosis and description were in German, not English or Latin. As a result, the name was effectively published but not valid as it was a nomen nudum. As the species is worthy of recognition, *D. trigonopetala* is validated here.

Dracula trigonopetala Gary Mey. & Baquero ex. A.Doucette, *sp. nov.*

Diagnosis: similar to *Dracula radiosa* (Rchb.f.) Luer, but distinguished by smaller flowers and a doubly alate lip.

Type:—ECUADOR. Pichincha: Quito, from material cultivated by Luis Baquero, April 2011, *FLOARE 1887* (holotype: QCNE!).

Epiphytic, caespitose herbs, 11–22 cm tall. Roots flexuous, 2 mm in diameter. Stem erect, sulcate, 1.6–2.0 cm long, enveloped by 2–3 sheaths, 0.5–3.5 cm long. Leaf erect, coriaceous, spatulate, apex acute, 10–20 cm long, 4–6 cm wide. Inflorescence a successively few flowered raceme; peduncles subverrucose, 10–12 cm long, enveloped by several bracts 2–4 mm long. Flower pedicellate; pedicel slender, verrucose, 3–5 mm long; sepals tan, connate to form a cup, suffused and speckled brown, contracted into purple tails, dorsal sepal 15 mm long, 18 mm wide, the tail of 1–3 cm long, lateral sepals 16 mm long, 15 mm wide, connate at the base forming a shallow mentum, the apex contracted into a tail similar to that of the dorsal sepal; petals yellow marked with black, cartilaginous, oblong, bivalvate, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide; lip white, suffused with yellow and rose, divided into a hypochile and epichile, hypochile ovate with an alate margin, this cleft with a second pair of alae, 3 mm long and wide, epichile concave, round, deflexed on the hypochile, coursed by radiating, unbranched keels, 3 mm long, 6 mm wide; column yellow, suffused with purple, semiterete, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, foot 2 mm long.

References

- Meyer, G.E., Basquero, L. & Cameron, K.M. (2012a) A new Ecuadorian species of *Dracula*: Pleurothallidinae (Orchidaceae). *OrchideenJournal*. Available from: http://orchideen-journal.de/permalink/MEYER_BAQUERO_CAMERON_Dracula_trigonopetala_final.pdf (accessed: 03 December 2012).
- Meyer, G.E., Basquero, L. & Cameron, K.M. (2012b) A new Ecuadorian species of *Dracula*: Pleurothallidinae (Orchidaceae). *OrchideenJournal* 19: 107–113.