



Ancistrorhynchus (Orchidaceae), a new generic record for the Flora of Zambia

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Zambia is home to at least 6 853 indigenous or naturalised vascular plant species (Bingham *et al.* 2021). One of the larger plant families is the Orchidaceae. The World Checklist of Orchidaceae enumerates 46 genera and 399 species (Govaerts 2021), whereas the *Flora of Zambia* project lists 46 genera and 397 species (Bingham *et al.* 2021).

The genus *Ancistrorhynchus* Finet (1907: 44) was coined for *Ancistrorhynchus brevifolius* Finet (1907: 45) and *Ancistrorhynchus recurvus* Finet (1907: 46). The genus currently comprises 17 species that are widely distributed in tropical Africa. Nine species have been recorded in East Africa (Cribb 1989). *Ancistrorhynchus tenuicaulis* Summerhayes (1953: 590) reaches the most southerly distribution of the genus near Mzuzu in Malawi and is the only species known so far from the Flora Zambesiaca region (la Croix *et al.* 1991, la Croix & Cribb 1998).



FIGURE 1. Sterile *Ancistrorhynchus ovatus* on fallen branch near Chimpempe Falls, Zambia. Photo by: N Wightman.

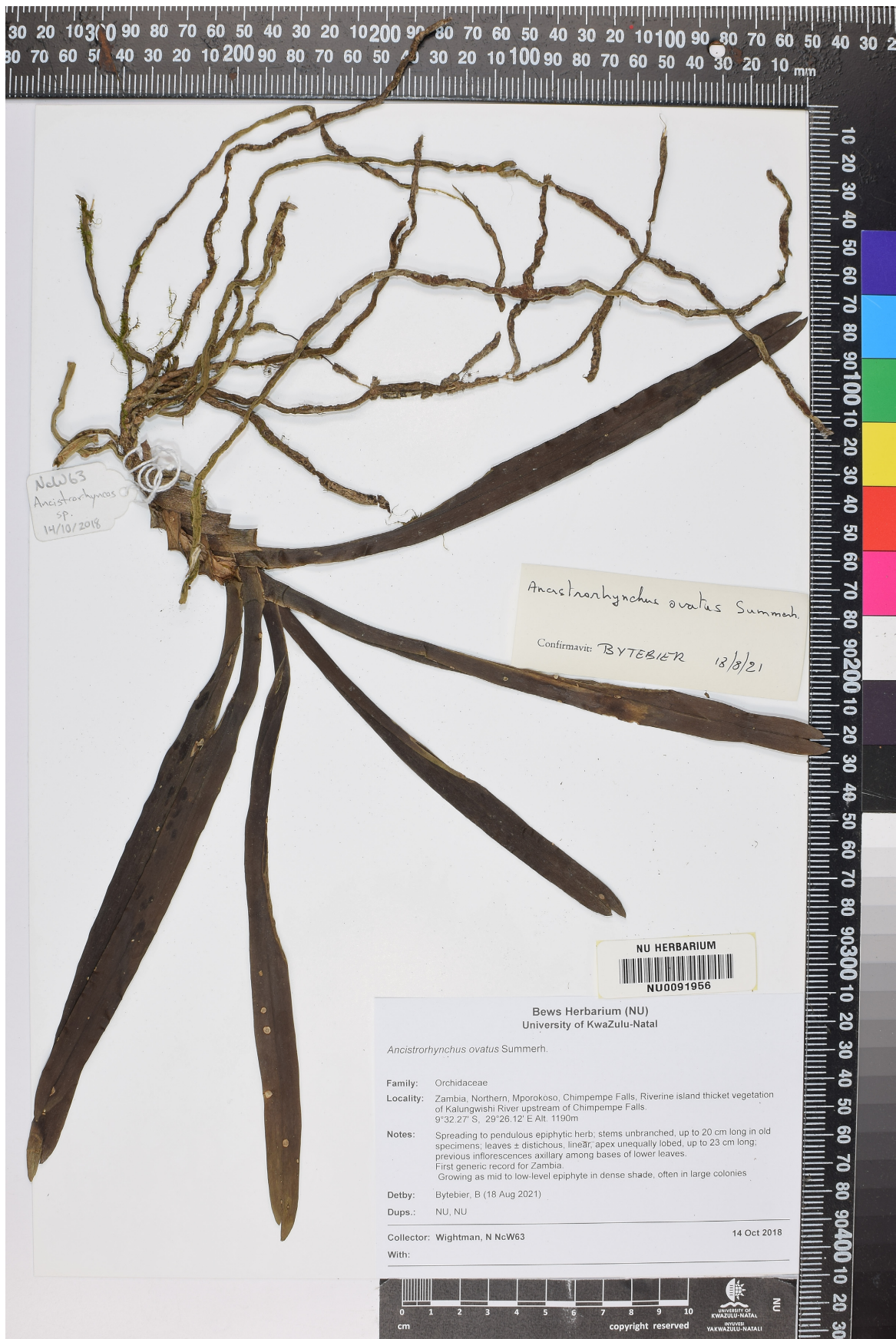


FIGURE 2. Herbarium specimen of *Wightman NcW 63* (NU). Photo by: B. Bytebier, published with permission from the Bews Herbarium (NU).

During recent field work in northern Zambia, the first author collected a sterile specimen that was most likely referable to *Ancistrorhynchus* (Fig. 1). A living plant was taken back to Lusaka where it flowered, but unfortunately died afterwards. The inflorescence was preserved in 70% alcohol and the plant was subsequently identified by the second author as *Ancistrorhynchus ovatus* Summerhayes (1944: 210). It matches the holotype specimen from Uganda (Eggeling 2048, K!), and the drawings made thereupon by Victor Summerhayes, in all aspects.

Ancistrorhynchus ovatus was so far only known to occur in the Central African Republic, Gabon, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Uganda (Govaerts 2021) from evergreen and gallery forest between 1200 and 1600 m (Cribb 1989). Its most southerly known distribution was Duoto, in the “Forestier Central” region of the DRC situated at 2°41’ North (Bamps 1982, Geerinck 1992). Thus, this record extends its distribution range considerably southwards to 9°32’ South.

In summary, this represents the first record of the genus *Ancistrorhynchus* for the flora of Zambia and only the second species of *Ancistrorhynchus* known from the Flora Zambesiaca area.

Ancistrorhynchus ovatus Summerhayes (1944: 210) (Fig. 2)

Specimen:—ZAMBIA. Northern Province: Mporokoso District, Chimpempe Falls, Riverine island thicket vegetation of Kalungwishi River upstream of Chimpempe Falls, 1190 m, 14 Oct 2018, *Wightman NcW63* (NU0091956!, NU spirit!).

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