



## *Encyclia lopezii* (Orchidaceae, Laeliinae) a new species from Venezuela

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### Abstract

A new species from Venezuela, *Encyclia lopezii*, is proposed. *Encyclia lopezii* is similar to *E. cordigera* and both species share the large flowers, the broad, suborbicular-subquadrate labellum central lobe, and the obovate to spatulate petals. *Encyclia lopezii* is, however, different from *E. cordigera* in several characters, including the subapically winged column with straight margins, the verrucose pedicellate ovary, and the fact that the apices of the lateral lobes of the lip do not overlap on top of the column at anthesis. The new species is fully illustrated and described. *Encyclia cordigera* and an Andean form of *E. diurna* are also documented with illustrations and discussed in the context of the relationships of the new species here proposed. A conservation assessment of *Encyclia lopezii* is provided following the IUCN criteria.

**Key words:** *Encyclia diurna*, *Encyclia cordigera*, epiphytes, systematics, Andes, Trujillo State.

### Resumen

Se presenta una nueva especie de *Encyclia* para Venezuela, *Encyclia lopezii*. *Encyclia lopezii* es similar a *E. cordigera* y estas especies comparten las flores grandes, el lóbulo central del labelo ancho y suborbicular-subcuadrado y los pétalos obovados hasta espatulados. *Encyclia lopezii*, sin embargo, difiere de *E. cordigera* en una serie de caracteres que incluyen el desarrollo de alas en la columna, el ovario pedicelado verrugoso y el hecho de que los ápices de los lóbulos laterales del labelo que no se traslapan cerca del ápice de la columna durante la antesis. La nueva especie es ilustrada y descrita en detalle. *Encyclia cordigera* y una forma andina de *E. diurna* son también ilustradas y discutidas en el contexto de sus posibles relaciones con la nueva especie, aquí propuesta. Una propuesta de conservación para *E. lopezii* se hace utilizando el criterio de la IUCN.

**Palabras clave:** *Encyclia diurna*, *Encyclia cordigera*, epífitas, sistemática, Andes, Estado Trujillo

### Introduction

*Encyclia* Hooker (1828: pl. 2831) is a genus with more than 150 species with a Neotropical distribution (van den Berg & Carnevali 2005). Most species are concentrated in two centers of diversity, one that might be called Megamexico III (sensu Rzedowski 1991), the other Brazil, with more than 50 and 45 species, respectively. *Encyclia* species are usually found in altitudes below 1500 meters, in forests with a marked dry season, mostly as epiphytes but a few are lithophytes. Some diagnostic characters of *Encyclia* are the usually bifoliate, pyriform or suborbicular pseudobulbs; the flowers are mostly resupinate and leathery in many species, most commonly with a conspicuous 3-lobed labellum that is free from the column, usually with well-developed lateral lobes that embrace the column in natural position. The labellum generally features an isthmus, with a complex callus generally composed of 2–4 lamellae that can be arranged in various ways. Furthermore, the flowers (and other parts of the plants) lack flavonoid compounds that precipitate in alcohol.