



Cattleya × *itabapoanaensis* (Orchidaceae), a new natural hybrid from Rio Janeiro State (Brazil)

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Abstract

A new natural hybrid between *Cattleya porphyroglossa* and *Cattleya harrisoniana* from the state of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil is described and discussed.

Key words: Brazilian orchids, *Cattleya porphyroglossa*, *Cattleya harrisoniana*, hybridization, Mata Atlantica

Introduction

An orchid specimen was collected in September, 2010, in the Bom Jesus de Itabapoana district in a gallery forest near the Itabapoana River at an elevation of 350 m. The specimen was expected to be *Cattleya porphyroglossa* Linden & Reichenbach (1856: 98) and certainly belonged (according to van den Berg *et al.* 2005) to the subgenus *Intermediae* (Cogniaux 1898: 189) Withner (1988: 21), due to its typical bifoliate homoblastic pseudobulbs. The specimen flowered in December 2010 producing flowers with an unexpected morphology that consisted of features intermediate between *C. porphyroglossa* and *C. harrisoniana* Bateman ex Lindley (1836: sub. t. 1919) flowers. Since both of these species grow in the same areas of the *Mata Atlantica*, in swampy forests near the Brazilian coast (Pabst & Dungs 1975), these intermediate flowering traits strongly suggest a hybrid origin for the specimen studied here.

Taxonomic treatment

Cattleya × *itabapoanaensis* V.P. Castro & D. Motte, *nothosp. nov.*, Fig. 1 & Fig. 3A

Flowers with intermediate shape and coloration between those described for *Cattleya porphyroglossa* Linden & Reichenbach and *Cattleya harrisoniana* Bateman ex Lindley.

Type:—BRAZIL. Rio de Janeiro: Bom Jesus de Itabapoana district, in a gallery forest around the Itabapoana River, 350 m, December 2011 (flowered in cultivation at Sávio Domingos Caliman greenhouses at Venda Nova do Imigrante), *Vieira s.n.* in *Castro 0155* (holotype SP).

Epiphytic herb. *Rhizomes* 1.5–2.0 cm long, roots 2.5–3.0 mm in diameter. *Pseudobulbs* 17.0–35.0 × 1.0–1.5 cm, cylindrical and homoblastic. Leaves 2(3), apical on pseudobulbs, 12–13 × 4–5 cm, elongate and elliptic. *Inflorescences* a short raceme, 8–9 cm long with 1–3 flowers emerging from a single spathe, 5.0–5.5 × 1.0–1.3 cm, floral bracts present but inconspicuous. *Flowers* 8.5–9.0 cm in diameter; ovary cylindrical, 4.0–5.0 ×