



## Four new species of *Lockhartia* (Orchidaceae, Oncidiinae)

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### Abstract

Four new species of *Lockhartia* are described and illustrated: *L. compacta* from Bolivia, *L. endresiana* from Costa Rica, *L. rugosifolia* from Ecuador and Peru, and *L. tenuiflora* from Ecuador and Colombia. Comments are given on their phenology, distribution, conservation status, and distinction from similar species.

### Resumen

Se describen e ilustran cuatro nuevas especies de *Lockhartia*: *L. compacta* de Bolivia, *L. endresiana* de Costa Rica, *L. rugosifolia* de Ecuador y Perú, y *L. tenuiflora* de Ecuador y Colombia. Se brindan comentarios sobre su fenología, distribución, estado de conservación y distinción de especies semejantes.

**Key words:** Augustus Endrés, Bolivian-Tucuman Forest biome, Huancabamba Depression, Utcubamba River basin.

### Introduction

Orchids of the genus *Lockhartia* Hooker (1827: t. 2715) are naturally distributed from central-western Mexico to southeastern Brazil. They are epiphytes that belong in the subtribe Oncidiinae, a group that contains ca. 1,600 exclusively Neotropical species (Chase 2009a, 2009b). Most species of *Lockhartia* have a very particular vegetative morphology, with elongate stems completely covered by imbricate, laterally flattened leaves. The shoots resemble hair braids, and for this reason species of *Lockhartia* are often called braided orchids. The morphologically diverse flowers have trichomal elaiophores, which produce oil as a putative reward for pollinators (Blanco *et al.* 2013).

Historically, the systematic position of this genus has been controversial (e.g., Chase 1986, Senghas 1995; summarized by Chase 2009a, 2009b, and Blanco *et al.* 2013), although phylogenetic studies based on molecular data have confirmed its relatively isolated position within subtribe Oncidiinae (Williams *et al.* 2001, Neubig *et al.* 2012).

William Jackson Hooker established the genus in 1827 when he described *Lockhartia elegans* (Hooker 1827: t. 2715). The generic name honors David Lockhart, first superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Trinidad, who sent plants of this species to Kew. Reichenbach (1855) published the first revision of the genus (reprinted in Reichenbach 1864), in which he recognized 10 species. Kränzlin (1923) published a second revision in which he recognized 29 species; he provided illustrations for most of them, although these are somewhat stylized and inaccurate, and thus not particularly useful for species-level identification (e.g., see Garay 1970). Senghas (1995) published a synopsis of *Lockhartia*, with only 19 species accepted.

All of these treatments are outdated; Senghas's (1995) synopsis misapplies several names, and ten new species were proposed between 1994 and 2012. Species circumscriptions in *Lockhartia* have thus remained confusing and inconsistent. To solve this situation, a taxonomic revision has been carried out as part of a monograph of the genus (to be published elsewhere). As a result, four species new to science have been detected and are described below.

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