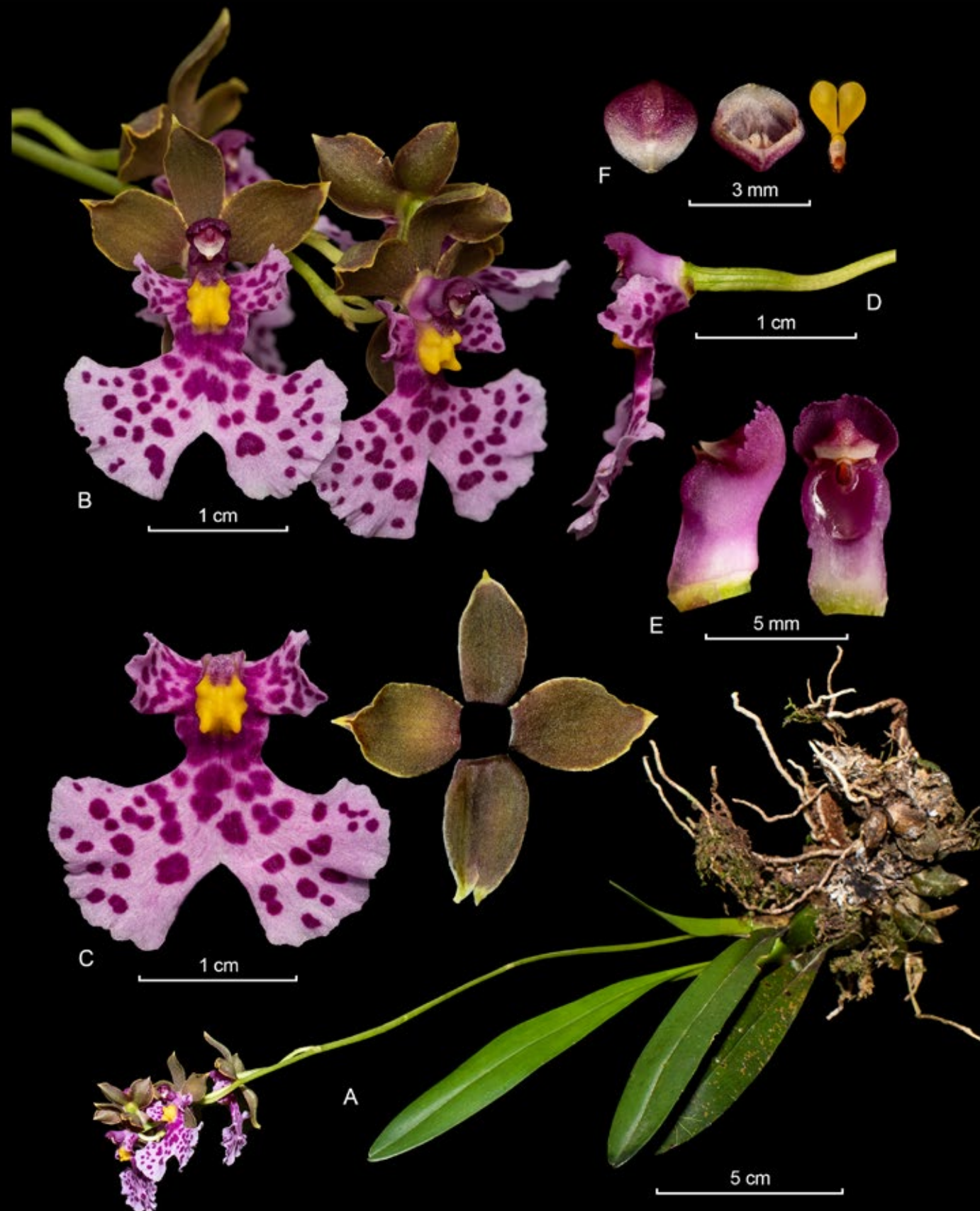


# *Caucaea sanguinolenta*

(LINDL.) N.H.WILLIAMS &amp; M.W.CHASE

LINDLEYANA 16: 284. 2001



**Synonyms:** *Leochilus sanguinolentus* Lindl., Edwards's Bot Reg. 30(Misc.): 91. 1844.  
*Oncidium cucullatum* var. *sanguinolentum* (Lindl.) Lindl., Fol. Orchid. 6-7: 22. 1855.  
*Oncidium olivaceum* var. *sanguinolentum* (Lindl.) Sander, Sander's Orch. Guide: 188. 1901.  
*Oncidium sanguinolentum* (Lindl.) Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 6: 98. 1919.

**Type:** [Venezuela]. "La Guayra", cultivated by a Mr. Barker (holotype: K-L [?]).

**Illustrated specimen:** Colombia. Antioquia: Municipality of San José de la Montaña, vereda La Mariela, near the road to El Congo, 2800 m. 11 December 2019. S. Vieira 050 (LCDP voucher).

Epiphytic herb, 12–16 cm tall. *Roots* 1 mm wide. *Pseudobulbs* caespitose, ancipitous, ovoid 18–20 × 15 mm, surrounded basally by few articulate foliaceous sheaths. *Leaves* subpetiolate, conduplicate, elliptic, obtuse, 80–120 × 15–18 mm. *Inflorescence* axillary from the base of the uppermost sheath, erect, to 18–20 cm long, with a dense few-flowered cluster of flowers near the apex. *Bracts* appressed, scale-like, 3–4 mm long. *Pedicel* and *ovary* 20–25 mm long. *Flowers* showy and long-lasting. *Dorsal sepal* dark chocolate brown with a yellow margin, subsessile, broadly ovate to elliptic, obtuse, apiculate, 8–10 × 4–5 mm. *Lateral sepals* similar in color, subsessile, forming a synsepal up to near the apex, broadly elliptic, obliquely obtuse and apiculate, ca. 10 × 6 mm. *Petals* similar in color, subsessile, broadly ovate to broadly elliptic, acute, 9–10 × 8 mm. *Lip* brightly light magenta with many dark purple spots and markings of various sizes, rigidly attached to the base of the column, trilobed with the lateral lobes spreading, trapezoid, slightly undulate and incurved, ca. 15 mm across when flattened, then with a distinct isthmus below the broadly bilobed, spreading, slightly undulate front lamina, 20–22 mm across. *Callus* at the base of the lip with a dense tuft of purple and white hairs, then dark yellow, of a fleshy, erect and cubic shaped structure, 3–4 mm long and equally broad, with five to seven distinct dorsal knobs and/or short keels. *Column* basally white, gradually darkening magenta-purple, short and stout and shallowly concave below the stigmatic surface, basally parallel to the ovary and then curved away from the lip and with the apex down-curved, with a broad,

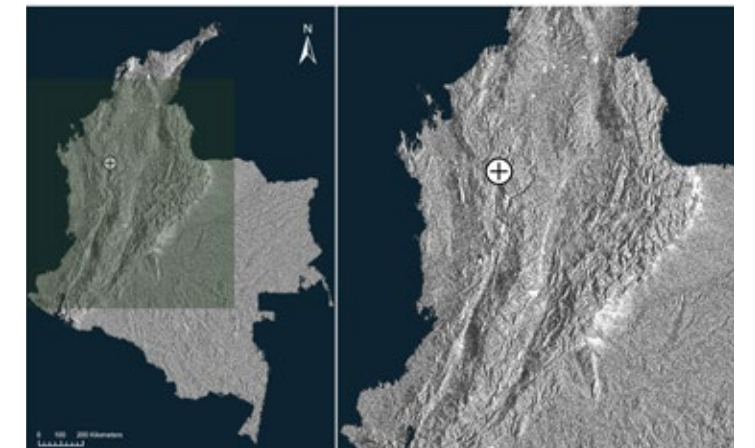
serrate hood, 6–7 mm long. *Anther cap* white and purple, broadly campanulate, obtuse, lobulate. *Pollinarium* 2, pyriform pollinia on a ca. 0.8 mm long strap-like stipe, on a minute viscidium.

**Etymology:** From the Latin *sanguinolentus*, "of blood", in reference to the blood-red spots of the lip.

*Caucaea sanguinolenta* is a widely distributed high elevation growing species occurring in the Andean cloud forests. The species is notoriously plastic in cultivation, with various floral parts being highly variable when the growing conditions change. This has led to the proposal of multiple segregate taxa (Stacy 1975). Lindley himself had his doubts about this species, reducing it to a variety (Lindley 1855). *Caucaea sanguinolenta* was originally described as having green sepals and petals with a few crimson streaks, and the lateral lobes wider than the front lobes (Lindley 1844).

## References:

- Lindley, J. 1844. *Leochilus sanguinolentus*. *Edwards's Botanical Register* 30 (Misc.): 91.  
 Lindley, J. 1855. *Oncidium cucullatum* var. *sanguinolentum*. *Folia Orchidacea*. 6-7: 22.  
 Stacy, J. F. 1975. Studies in the genus *Oncidium*. 1. *Botanical Museum Leaflets* 24(7): 133–191.



LCPD: *Caucaea sanguinolenta* (Lindl.) N.H.Williams & M.W.Chase. **A.** Habit. **B.** Inflorescence. **C.** Dissected perianth. **D.** Lip, column and ovary, side view. **E.** Column, side and ventral view. **F.** Anther cap and pollinarium.

