

Encyclia stellata

(LINDL.) SCHLTR.

ORCHIDEEN BESCHREIB. KULT. ZÜCHT.: 211. 1914

Synonyms: *Epidendrum stellatum* Lindl., Fol. Orchid. 3: 21. 1853.**Type:** Venezuela. Caracas, Purdie s.n. (holotype: K).**Illustrated specimen:** Colombia. Antioquia: Municipality of Sabanalarga, tropical dry forest, 560 m. 10 Apr 2019. M. Rincón-González s.n. (LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, to 45–50 cm tall. *Roots* fibrous, thick. Pseudobulbs ovate, bifoliate, striate, 5.0×3.5 cm. *Leaves* oblong-elliptic, sessile, conduplicate in the base, coriaceous, entire, acute, $30\text{--}40 \times 2.5$ cm. *Inflorescence* racemose, surpassing the leaves, suberect, produced from the apex of pseudobulb, up to 46 cm, rachis semiterete, green. *Floral bracts* short, 3 mm long. *Ovary* pedicellate, semiterete, canalate, granulous, dark-green, ca 18.5 mm. *Flowers* 10–15, simultaneous, resupinate, with a soft fragrance, sepals and petals yellowish-green, midlobe of the lip white, lateral lobes greenish, with the veins and callus purple, column green, ventrally with purple stains, ventrally with purple dots. *Sepals* free, elliptical-lanceolate, acute. *Dorsal sepal* 18.0×5.2 mm. *Lateral sepals* slightly asymmetrical, oblique, 18×5 mm. *Petals* oblanceolate, subacute, 16×5 mm. *Lip* trilobed, cuneate at base, rounded at apex, 13.5×13.0 mm, the lateral lobes widely ovate, erect, entire, surrounding the column, curved at the apex, 7.5×4 mm, callus fleshy, oblong, sulcate, ending in three central longitudinal keels, that disappear at the apex of the midlobe, the midlobe separate from the lateral lobes by a short and distinct isthmus, semi-circular, undulate margins, with three keels on each side of the central keels, 8.0×6.9 mm. *Column* 6.8×3.5 mm, straight, expanded to the apex, with a pair of short apical wings, the clinandrium denticulate, cordiform. *Anther cap* ovoid, with 4-cells, yellowish-white with the margin purple. *Pollinia* two pairs, subequal, laterally compressed, attached to a thin stipe. *Capsule* 3.2 cm, ellipsoid, canalate, green densely granulous.

Etymology: Derived from the Latin *stella*, “star” because of the shape the flowers take when dried.

Encyclia stellata is morphologically similar to *Encyclia oncidoides*

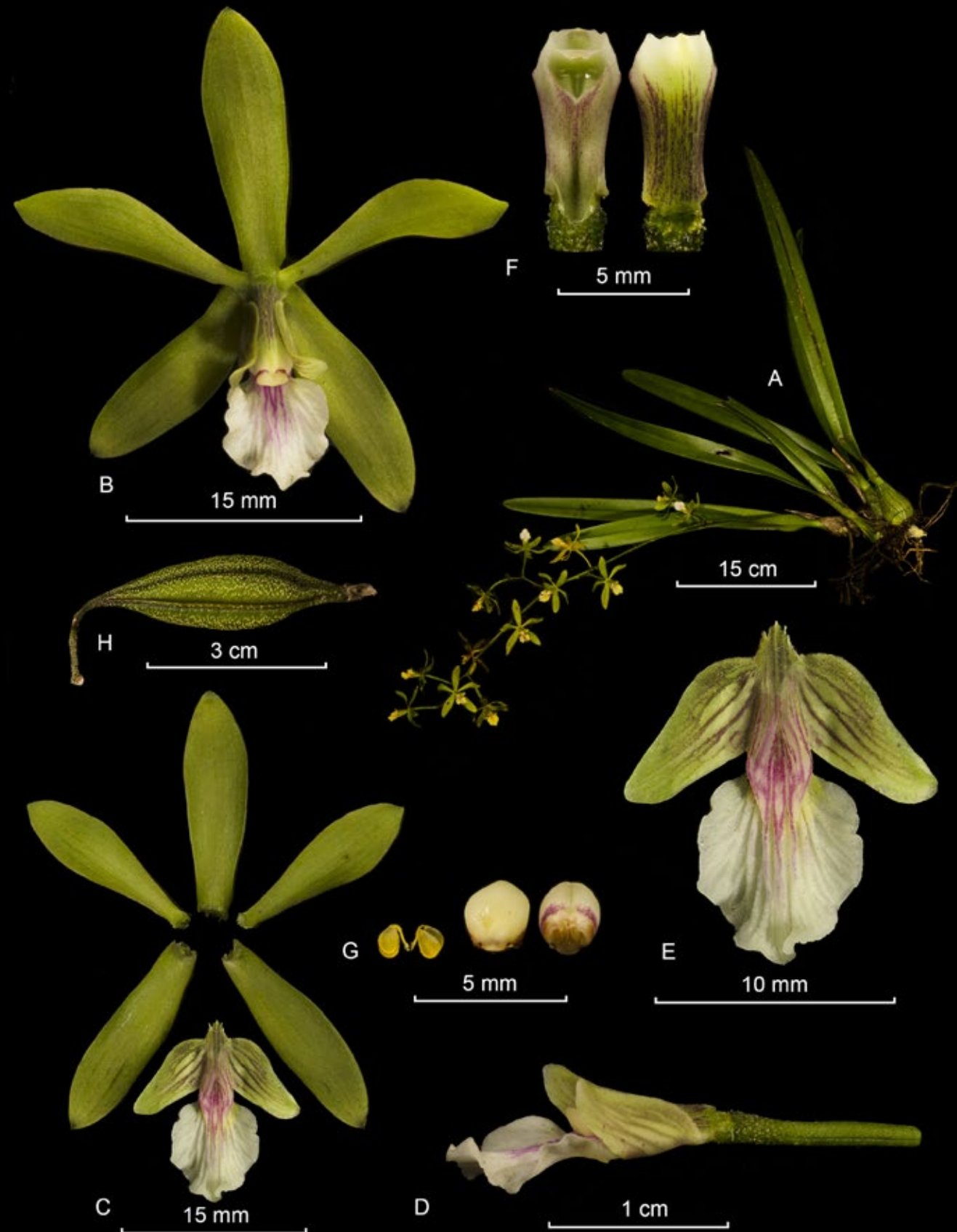
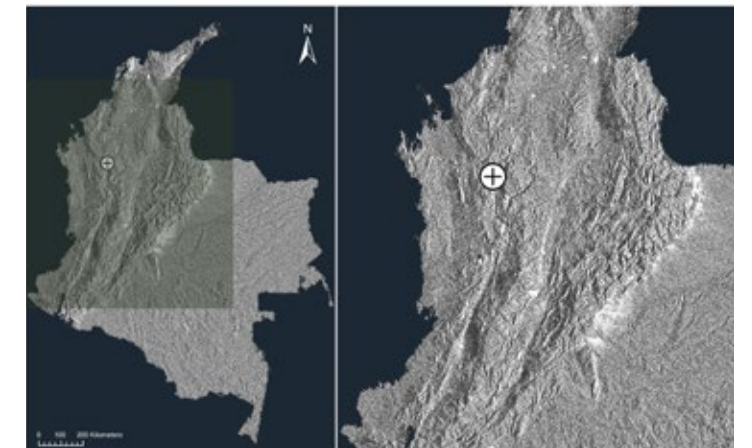
(Lindl.) Schltr., it differs in the symmetrical lateral lobes of the lip (vs. asymmetrical), longer midlobe 8.0 mm (vs. 6.0–7.3 mm), shorter column 6.8 mm long (vs. 7.2–8.5 mm), with a pair of short apical wings (vs. prominent incurved rounded auricles). The species of the *Encyclia oncidoides* complex are morphologically similar and their taxonomic delimitation requires further revision (Ames et al. 1935). According to Pupulin & Bogarin (2012) the species is easily distinguished by the verrucose ovary, the midlobe of the lip with three narrow, conspicuous, warty keels running from the base toward the apex with several lower keels radiating from the center to the sides the lateral lobes of the lip narrowing toward the tips, and a short, basally branching inflorescence.

References:

Ames, O., Hubbard, F. T., & Schweinfurth, C. 1935. A fourth polymorphic alliance in *Epidendrum*. *Botanical Museum Leaflets, Harvard University* 3: 93-110.

Lindley, J. 1853. *Epidendrum stellatum*. *Folia Orchidaceae* 3: 21.

Pupulin, F., & Bogarin, D. 2012. A taxonomic revision of *Encyclia* (Orchidaceae: Laeliinae) in Costa Rica. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 168(4), 395-448.



LCDP: *Encyclia stellata* (Lindl.) Schltr. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Dissected perianth. **D.** Column and lip, side view. **E.** Lip. **F.** Column, ventral and side view. **G.** Anther cap and pollinarium. **H.** Capsule.

