

Cyrtochilum densiflorum

(Lindl.) Kraenzl.

Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem 7: 99. 1917

Synonyms: *Odontoglossum densiflorum* Lindl., Orchid. Linden.: 17. 1846.
Oncidium densiflorum (Lindl.) Beer, Praktisch Studien an der Familie der Orchideen 285. 1854.

Type: Colombia. Boyacá: “The Paramo, near Boyaca, in the province of Tunja, at the height of 11,000 feet; March.” J. Linden 1377 (holotype: K-000857245).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Cundinamarca: Municipality of Chía, 2800 m. December 2014. K. Gil-Amaya 347 & P. Almanza de Ramírez (JBB; LCDP voucher).

Epiphytic, caespitose herb, sympodial, 14.06–15.36 cm tall excluding the inflorescence, 58.61 cm tall including the inflorescence; pseudobulbs heteroblastic, lustrous, ovoid, 4.81–4.95 × 2.91–3.03 cm, bifoliate, surrounded by 3–4 distichous, conduplicate sheaths, the upper two foliaceous, up to 12.11 cm long. Leaves coriaceous, conduplicate basally, pseudopetiolate, lanceolate, acute, 14.01–15.05 × 1.45–1.73 cm. Inflorescence axillary, suberect, emerging from the base of the pseudobulb, paniculate, the rachis vinaceous, 57.02–58.61 cm long. Floral bracts lanceolate, acuminate. Ovary pedicellate, costate, 1.81–1.92 cm long. Flowers yellow externally, maroon within, with yellow along the margins and the distal third of sepals and petals, lip yellow, maroon at the base. Sepals unguiculate; base cuneate; apex apiculate; dorsal sepal obovate, convex, held horizontally, 0.97 × 0.54 cm; lateral sepals obliquely lanceolate, divergent, 1.15 × 0.43 cm. Petals unguiculate-obovate, slightly undulate, apiculate, covering the column, touching each other at the tips, 0.86 × 0.46 cm. Lip oblong-elliptic, fleshy, acute, apiculate, the apical half reflexed, 0.90 × 0.35 cm; callus fleshy, consisting of a central, cuneate, tongue-like protuberance along the basal third, then dividing distally into three obtuse apices; additional callus elements present near the apex of the main callus, including two lateral linear teeth and two central divergent, subquadrate protuberances, 1.18 × 0.34 cm. Column brown-green, fleshy, with two capitate protuberances at the basal sides of the stigmatic cavity, 5.4 × 1.96 mm. Anther cap brownish, apical, cucullate. Pollinia 2, oblanceolate, grooved, yellow; viscidium rounded, white.

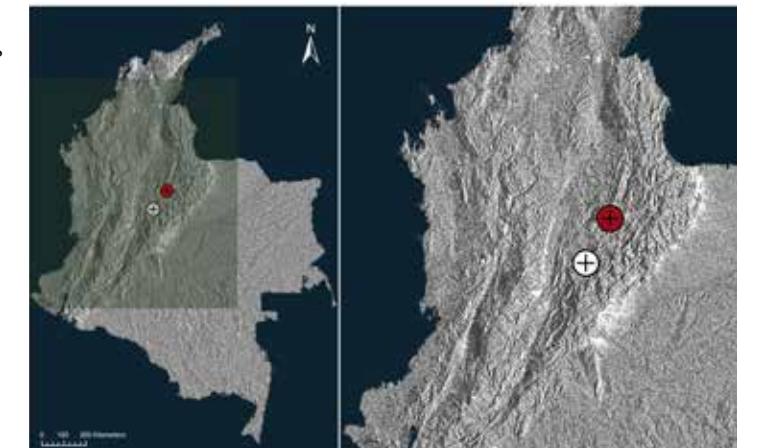
Etymology: From the Latin *densus*, meaning “dense” or “thick,”

probably referring to the large number of flowers borne by the raceme inflorescence.

Cyrtochilum densiflorum shows morphological affinity with *Cyrtochilum myanthum* (Lindl.) Kraenzl but can be distinguished by its bright yellow flowers, with brown dots within (vs. paler, whitish-yellow, the distal half suffused with brown), wider sepals, about 0.49 cm wide (vs. 0.33 cm. wide), its connivent petals (vs. spreading) and a fleshy lip callus consisting of a central, cuneate, tongue-like protuberance along the basal third, then dividing into three obtuse apices, emerging adjacent to the apex of the main calli, two lateral, linear teeth and two central, divergent, subquadrate protuberances (vs. mainly two linear, parallel, elongate projections extending to the middle of the lip). The species is widely distributed and can be found from Venezuela, to Ecuador at elevations above 3000 meters in ecosystems of Paramo. In Colombia this species has been recorded mainly in the eastern cordillera, in the departments of Boyacá and Cundinamarca.

References:

Lindley, J. 1846. Orchidaceae Lindenianae; Or, Notes Upon a Collection of Orchids Formed in Colombia and Cuba by J. Linden. Bradbury and Evans. London, pp. 17.



LCDP: *Cyrtochilum densiflorum* (Lindl.) Kraenzl. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Dissected perianth. **D.** Column and lip, side view. **E.** Column, ventral and side view. **F.** Anther cap, dorsal and ventral view. **G.** Pollinarium, dorsal and ventral view.

