

Cyrtochilum halteratum

(Lindl.) Kraenzl.

Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem 7: 93. 1917

Synonyms: *Oncidium halteratum* Lindl. Orchid. Linden. 14. 1846.**Type:** Colombia. Quindío: “epiphyte from the forests of Quindiu, in the province of Mariquita”, alt. 7,800 ft. February. *J.J. Linden 1289* (holotype: K-L; isotype: W).**Illustrated specimen:** Colombia. Tolima: Municipality of Villahermosa, 2,800 m. 26 Nov 2018. *M.A. Sierra-Ariza 94* (TOLI; LCDP voucher).

Epiphytic herb, sympodial, up to 50–55 cm tall excluding the inflorescence. *Pseudobulbs* heteroblastic, ovoid, 9.0–9.5 × 3.0–3.5 cm. *Leaves* numerous, with 6–8 basal, foliaceous sheaths covering the pseudobulb and 1–2 apical leaves per pseudobulb; apical leaves pseudopetiolate, ensiform, slender, apex acute, 35–45 × 3.5–7.3 cm. *Inflorescence* paniculate, basal, erect, voluble, up to 270–280 cm long. *Floral bracts* lanceolate, acuminate. *Ovary* pedicellate, costate, 30–33 mm long. *Flowers* brown; sepals with yellow or white markings at the apex; petals purple at the base, with brown and white transverse bars, and white basally; lip white, with the basal callus white to purple, the remaining portion brown. *Sepals* unguiculate, with the cuneate base, undulate; *dorsal sepal* 2.3 × 2.4 cm; *lateral sepals* 3.3–3.5 × 1.35–1.38 cm. *Petals* clawed, undulate, obtuse 2.13 × 1.99 cm. *Lip* lanceolate, fleshy, acute, 3-lobed, 2.15 × 1.17 cm; callus fleshy, 2–3 superior elongated keels, 1.18 × 0.34 cm. *Column* erect, fleshy, with two auricles, and falcate wings, 13.6 × 3.2–5.1 mm. *Anther cap* yellowish with brown, apical, cucullate. *Pollinia* 2, pyriform, yellow, rectangular white stipe, and viscidium brown and white at the apex.

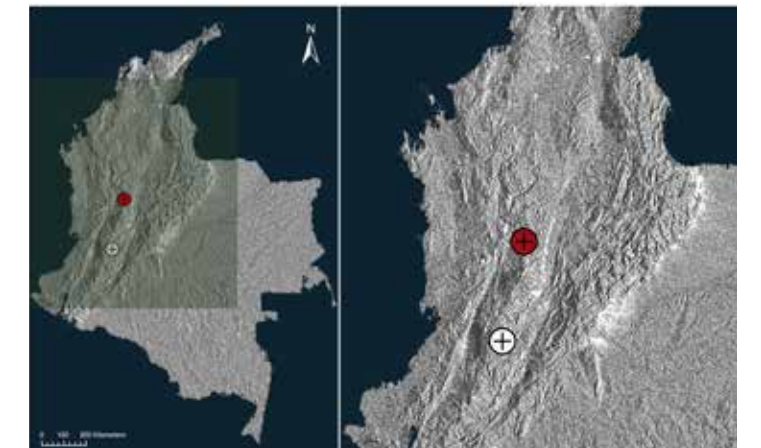
Etymology: From the Latin *halteratum*, meaning “dumbbells”, probably referring to the unguiculate sepals or petals.

Cyrtochilum halteratum (Lindl.) Kraenzl. is a widely distributed, showy species found from Ecuador to Colombia and Venezuela at elevations above 2500 m. In Colombia this species has been recorded in the central and western cordilleras in the departments of Antioquia, Quindío and Santander. Similar to *C. hirtzii* Dalström and *C. geniculatum* König, *C. halteratum* can be recognized from the former by the bilobed callus and the falcate

wings of the column versus the more complex callus and truncate wings of the column, and from the latter by the reniform dorsal sepal versus orbicular to ovate and the three-ridged callus versus bilobed.

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. 14.



LCDP: *Cyrtochilum halteratum* (Lindl.) Kraenzl. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Dissected perianth with magnified basal lip calli. **D.** Column and lip, lateral view. **E.** Column, ventral and lateral view. **F.** Anther cap and pollinarium.

