

Cyrtochilum meirax

(Rchb.f.) Dalström

Lindleyana 16: 70. 2001

Synonyms: *Oncidium meirax* Rchb.f., Bonplandia (Hannover) 2: 12. 1854.
Trigonochilum meirax (Rchb.f.) Königer & Schildh., Arcula 1: 22. 1994.

Type: Venezuela. Caracas, March 1851, *H. Wagener* s.n. (holotype: W).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Risaralda: Pueblo Rico, 1800 m. Jun 2016. *S. Vieira-Uribe* s.n. (LCDP voucher).

Epiphytic herb, sympodial, up to 3–4.4 cm tall excluding the inflorescence. *Pseudobulbs* heteroblastic, ovate, longitudinally elongated, 1.2 × 0.4 cm. *Leaves* 1–5 per pseudobulb, pseudopetiole, oblanceolate, coriaceous, smooth, conduplicate; base cuneate, 2.88 – 2.93 × 0.38 – 0.65 cm. *Inflorescence* paniculate, basal, erect, up to 8.9 cm long; *floral bracts* saffron, lanceolate, acute, 0.37–0.45 cm. *Flowers* fuscous-lemon. *Ovary* lemon to citrine with fuscous spots, costate, 1.07 cm long with the pedicel. *Sepals* lemon with fuscous bands, acute-spatulate, with the cuneate base, margins smooth; *dorsal sepal* 1 × 0.2 cm; *lateral sepals* 1.2 × 0.21 cm. *Petals* lemon with fuscous bands, oblanceolate, margins smooth, 0.79 – 0.85 × 0.2 – 0.22 cm. *Lip* lemon with marginal fuscous brushstrokes, convex, emarginate, obtuse; callus fleshy, with protuberances, comprising 1 upper trilobed keel and 2 lower keels, 0.56 × 0.79 cm. *Column* lemon, with chestnut lines bordering the stigma; column nearly perpendicular to the ovary; with 2 marginal fleshy, acute keels and a short column-foot, 4.3 × 2.0 mm. *Pollinia* 2, yellow, with a white stipe and a brown viscidium. *Anther cap* apical, elliptic, yellowish.

Etymology: The specific epithet is derived from the Greek word *meirax* (μεῖραξ), meaning a young boy or girl, and may refer either to the plant's small size or to its ability to flower at an early stage of development.

Cyrtochilum meirax differs from *C. cimiciferum* (Rchb.f.) Dalström by having smaller plants (3–4.4 vs. <10 cm), floral bracts triangular, acute (vs. elliptical-ovate, obtuse), flowers yellow with irregular brown spots (vs. flowers brown), callus disk with 5 protuberances

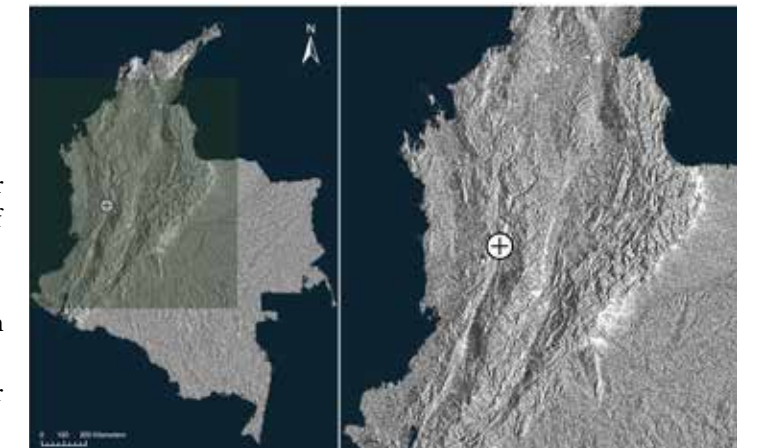
(vs. callus disk with 10 protuberances) column thin with triangular wings (vs. column robust with elliptical wings). Is found in Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, the Leeward Islands, Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in humid forests as a small sized, warm to cool growing epiphyte, occurring on understory shrubs, on trunks and large branches as well as small twigs

References

Ackerman, J.D. 1992. Las orquídeas de Puerto Rico e Islas Vírgenes. San Juan, Puerto Rico: Universidad de Puerto Rico. 167 p.

Dalström, S. (2001). A synopsis of the genus *Cyrtochilum* (Orchidaceae; Oncidiinae): Taxonomic reevaluation and new combinations. *Lindleyana* 16(2): 56–80.

Herausgegeben von D.F.L. von Schlechtendal, (1826). *Odontoglossum cimiciferum* Rchb. f. in *Linnaea*: Ein Journal für die Botanik in ihrem ganzen Umfange (Vol. 22, p. 849). F. Dümmler.



LCDP: *Cyrtochilum meirax* (Rchb.f.) Dalström. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Dissected perianth. **D.** Lip and column, lateral view. **E.** Column, lateral, and ventral view. **F.** Pollinarium.

