

Cyrtochilum tetracopis

(Rchb.f.) Kraenzl.

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

Synonyms: *Oncidium tetracopis* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron. 27: 915. 1873.

Type: Colombia. Collected by Baldeviama, *Bull* 234 (holotype: W).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Santander, Municipality of La Belleza, 2530 m, 31 May 2017. N. Gutiérrez & S. Moreno 61 (JBB; LCDP Voucher).

Terrestrial herb, 45–55 cm tall excluding the inflorescence. *Roots* fleshy, 5.5–7.5 mm in diameter. *Pseudobulbs* borne on an elongate rhizome, obovate, somewhat laterally compressed and wrinkled, 12 × 3.3 cm, bifoliate, surrounded basally by 2–3 distichous, deciduous sheaths and 2–3 distichous, foliaceous sheaths; foliaceous sheaths 34.6–42.0 × 5.7 cm. *Leaves* sessile, conduplicate, lanceolate, acute, 50 × 5 cm. *Inflorescence* axillary from the base of the pseudobulb, climbing, up to 3 m long, paniculate, lax, branched, carrying ca. 120 simultaneous flowers. *Floral bracts* appressed, scale-like, 1.4–1.8 cm. *Pedicel* 22–30 mm. *Ovary* 30–33 mm. *Flowers* fuscous with yellow. *Dorsal sepal* fuscous with yellow margins, unguiculate, the claw with a pair of yellow auricles, broadly cordate, the margins undulate, the apex obtuse, 2.6 × 1.9 cm. *Lateral sepals* fuscous, slightly involute, unguiculate, the base with a pair of yellow auricles, the apical margins minutely undulate, the apex emarginate, 3.4 × 1.8 cm. *Petals* yellow, densely stained with fuscous to terracotta, elliptic to subunguiculate, convex, the margins undulate, the apex obtuse, 2.2 × 1.5 cm. *Lip* adnate to the base of the column, fuscous with yellow in the distal margins, the callus light yellow and white, elliptic to pandurate, the basal third with a fleshy, rounded callus, the callus complex, with several spreading, angled tubercles and a central, longitudinal convexity, the blade of the lip 3-grooved, the apical margins involute, 19 × 7.5 mm. *Column* citrine to sage, suberect, sigmoid, with a shallow concavity and two small, fuscous, oblique, lacerate wings below the broadly rounded stigma, 13 × 2.3 mm. *Anther cap* citrine, hooded, 3.2 × 3.7 mm. *Pollinarium* with two oblanceolate, grooved pollinia, 2 × 0.8 mm, on an obtriangular stipe, viscidium reniform.

Etymology: It may refer to four “kopis”: a forward-curving blade in

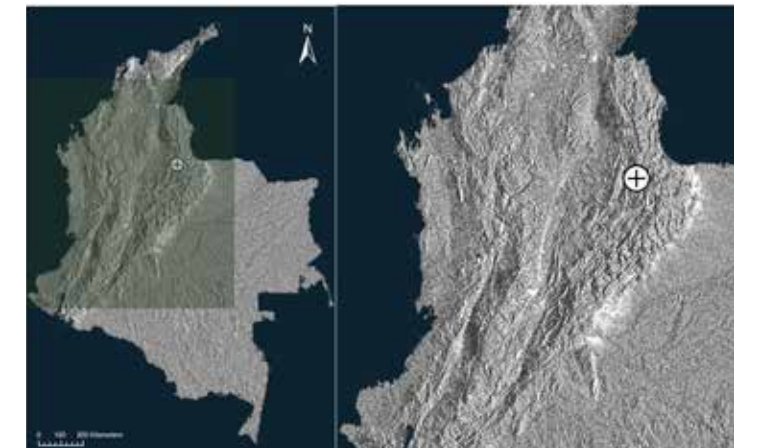
Ancient Greece.

Cyrtochilum tetracopis is found from Ecuador to Venezuela, but it is most frequent in the cloud forests of the eastern Andes of Colombia, growing as epiphytic or terrestrial at elevations above 2300 meters. It can be related to other large species with long, climbing inflorescences bearing numerous simultaneous, brown and yellow flowers, such as *Cyrtochilum baldeviamae* (Rchb.f.) Kraenzl., *C. annulare* (Rchb.f.) Kraenzl., *C. serratum* (Lindl.) Kraenzl., and *C. aemulum* (Rchb.f. & Warsz.) Kraenzl., among others. *Cyrtochilum tetracopis* can be distinguished by the sepals unguiculate with auricles at the base, the extended, strongly undulate petals, lip subpandurate without lateral lobes and column with a pair of small, lacerate wings.

References:

Kraenzlin, F. W. L. 1917. *Cyrtochilum* H.B.K. Notizblatt des Botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin-Dahlem 7: 81–101.

Reichenbach, H.G. 1873. New Garden Plants. *The Gardeners' Chronicle & Agricultural Gazette* 27: 915.



LCDP: *Cyrtochilum tetracopis* (Rchb.f.) Kraenzl. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Dissected perianth. **D.** Column and lip. **E.** Column, ventral view. **F.** Anther cap and pollinarium.

