ENCYCLIA ROSARIENSIS (ORCHIDACEAE),
A NEW SPECIES FROM CUBA

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ABSTRACT: A new species of the genus Encyclia, endemic to the Sierra del Rosario in Cuba, is described and illustrated. Encyclia rosariensis is similar to Encyclia fucata, from which it differs by the smaller size of the flowers and the cochleariform, completely white lip.

Encyclia Hook. is a Neotropical genus of some 140 species of which 20 to 25 have been reported for the Caribbean (Withner, 1996; Nir, 2000; Ackerman, pers. com.). Cuba has the greatest diversity of Encyclia in the Antilles, but the number of species reported has been controversial. Both Acuña (1938) and Brother León (1946) reported 19 species, but many of these names have passed to synonymy or turned out to be erroneous reports. Dietrich (1984) reported the existence of 22 taxa but many of these suffered the same fate as those listed by Acuña (1938) and León (1946). In his revision of Caribbean species, Withner (1996) recorded 11 species for Cuba of which six were considered to be endemic to the island [Encyclia howardii (Ames & Correll) Hoehne, Encyclia ochrantha (Richard) Withner, Encyclia oxypetala (Lindl.) Neum., Encyclia pyriformis (Lindl.) Schltr., and Encyclia triangularis (Rchb.f.) Acuña]. Later, Mark Nir (2000) reported 13 species and at about the same time Mujica et al. (2000) offered up 17. Ackerman and Díaz (pers. com.) increased that to 18, which includes 12 endemics in their recently submitted manuscript for the Flora of the Greater Antilles. We expect the number to surpass 20 after further study, particularly of the E. phoenicea complex.

During fieldwork in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, we collected several specimens of Encyclia that we propose as new to science. Encyclia rosariensis Mújica, Pérez & Pupulin, sp. nov.


Species Encycliae fucatae (Lindl.) Britt. et Millsp. similis, sed floribus valde minoribus, labello cochlea-riformi niveo recedit.

Plants epiphytic, to 35 cm tall including inflorescence. Roots numerous, slender. Rhizomes ascendent, short. Pseudobulbs aggregate, ovate-pyriform, 4–6 cm long, subtended by scarious sheaths. Leaves 1–2, conduplicate at the base, linear-lanceolate, coriaceous, acute, 17–25 cm long, 1.5–1.8 cm wide. Inflorescences erect, panicle slender, multiflowered, to 30 cm long. Floral bracts small, clasping, triangular, acute, 1 mm long. Flowers small, showy, sepals and petals dull yellow with a reddish-brown suffusion darkening apically and bordered by dull yellow margins, labellum white, sometimes with a very pale purple suffusion, fragrance imperceptible. Ovary glabrous, 5–6 mm long. Sepals a dull yellow suffused with similar, oblong-obovate, acute, concave, 8–9 mm long, 3.0–3.5 mm. Petals similar, spatulate, acute, concave, 7–8 mm long, 3.0–3.5 mm wide. Labellum free, 3–lobed, lateral lobes erect, oblong, subquadrate, embracing the column, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide; median lobe cochleate with undulate margins, emarginate, 6 mm long, 5–6 mm wide; disc bilamellate. Column winged, robust, 5 mm long, 2 mm diam.; anther yellowish; pollinia yellowish, waxy, 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet is dedicated to the place of origin, the Sierra del Rosario, an area rich in endemic species.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION: The species is apparently endemic to the Sierra del Rosario in the Province of Pinar del Río, Cuba. It grows epiphytically in evergreen forests at about 350 m elevation. Flowering occurs in July.

CONSERVATION STATUS: The type locality forms part of the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve which is thus far the only known site of this species. We do not yet know
the size of the population. Consequently, an assessment of its status awaits further study.

This species is similar to and has been confused with *Encyclia fucata*, a more common species with which it is sympatric. The former differs by its smaller flowers and its cochleate, completely white labellum (Fig. 2A).

**LITERATURE CITED**


