

STENIA GLATZII Neudecker & Gerlach, sp. nov.

Species haec STENIAE PALLIDAE Lindl. *similis, a qua lobo terminali labelli distincte brevior, lobis lateralibus auctis et margine anteriore minute denticulatis atque costis 15 calli differt.*

TYPE: Ecuador, near Gualaquiza, 800 m; col. Antón Glatz. 15.4.1979; flowered repeatedly in cultivation. Holotype Botanische Staatssammlung München (M).

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honour of Antón Glatz, an orchid enthusiast who collected the new species and brought it to the authors' attention.

DESCRIPTION: Epiphytic; stem highly reduced, covered with leaf sheaths whose size increases from the basal to the distal sheaths; roots emerge from the axils of lower leafy structures. Leaves elliptical, with acute apex, arranged in the form of a fan, up to 10 cm long and 3 cm wide, with a prominent middle vein. Inflorescence produced from the axils of the basal leaf sheaths, single-flowered, 5 cm long, with a bract at the distal end of the scape. Sepals and petals beige, lip yellowish, finely dotted in red in the basal area and on the lateral lobes. Base of the labellum concave, with a broad basal callus consisting of 15 longitudinal, denticulate keels. Lateral lobes broadly oval, with anterior margins finely denticulate, central lobe acute. The labellum 2 cm long in all and (in natural position) 1.25 cm wide. Dorsal sepal oblongo-ovate, with prolonged apex, 3 cm long and 1.6 cm wide. Lateral sepals asymmetrically oblongo-ovate, acute, 3.5 cm long with the prolonged apex, otherwise 3 cm long, and 1.6 cm wide. Column 1 cm long and 0.6 cm wide, with defined lateral margins broadening from the base up, cucullate at the apex. Base of column prolonged in the form of a foot, attached to the lip. Anther apical, seated on the column, with rounded apex; two pairs of cylindrical pollinia of unequal size, borne on a funnel-shaped viscidium.

POLLINATOR: Unknown.

OBSERVATIONS: According to information from the person who has cultivated the plants for many years, this new species was found in the same habitat as *Dodsonia*. It has notable characters in that it appears to be an intermediate link between the genera *Stenia* and *Dodsonia*. Close examination of *Stenia glatzii*'s lip morphology reveals features indicating a bridging position with *Stenia pallida*, the type species of the genus, which is widely distributed and very likely to be found in the same region too.

Comparison of the lip structure in the series *Stenia pallida* (a), *Stenia glatzii* (b), and *Dodsonia saccata* (c) shows, on the one hand, a clear tendency towards reduction of the central lobe, and, on the other hand,

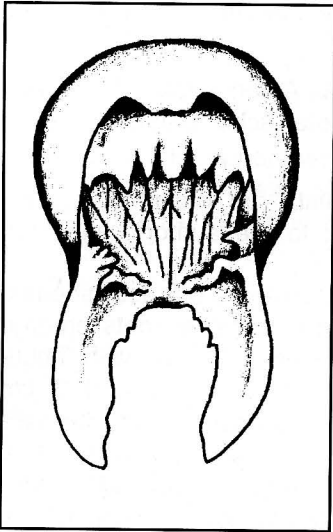


Fig. 1: *Dodsonia saccata*. Top view of the lip.

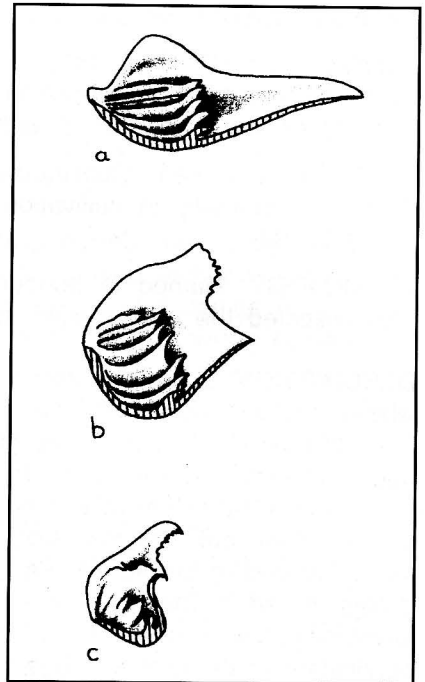


Fig. 2: Comparison of the lip morphology of *Stenia pallida* (a), *Stenia glatzii* (b), and *Dodsonia saccata* (c).

an equally clear tendency towards prolongation of the lateral lobes into falcate shape. Regarding this double tendency of morphological variation, the widening of *Stenia glatzii*'s basal calli in the form of parallel keels, as compared with *Stenia pallida*'s, and also the formation of *Dodsonia*'s typical additional calli in the form of lateral protuberances, thus separated from the basal callus, should be interpreted as part of the excessive prolongation of the lateral lobes. For the time being, the question remains open whether *Stenia glatzii* may have evolved from a hybrid.

Additional note: *Dodsonia saccata*, described 30 years ago and rediscovered unexpectedly in a European collection, continues to be missing, if not extinct, in its country of origin. It is therefore good to know that in the meanwhile pollinization of this botanical jewel has been successfully achieved and it will soon be possible to multiply the seed.

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