

A NEW SPECIES AND FIRST RECORD OF THE GENUS *SOLENOCENTRUM* (ORCHIDACEAE: CRANICHIDINAE) FROM PERU

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ABSTRACT. *Solenocentrum oblongum* from southern Peru is described and illustrated, representing the first record of this genus for the country. It is similar to Bolivian *S. lueri*, but can be distinguished by its oblong, sub-pandurate labellum (vs. triangular to sagittate) with rounded base (vs. sagittate), glabrous margins (vs. densely ciliate) and slender oblong calli (vs. broadly ovate). Line drawings of labellum outlines and an identification key to the four accepted species of *Solenocentrum* are provided.

RESUMEN. Se describe e ilustra *Solenocentrum oblongum* del sur peruano, representando el primer registro de este género para el país. Es similar a la especie boliviana *S. lueri*, pero se distingue por su labelo oblongo, subpandurado (vs. triangular a sagitado) con base redondeada (vs. sagitada), márgenes glabros (vs. densamente ciliados) y callos oblongos, delgados (vs. ampliamente ovados). Se proporcionan dibujos en línea del labelo, y una clave de identificación de las cuatro especies aceptadas de *Solenocentrum*.

KEY WORDS / PALABRAS CLAVE: Andes, Bolivia, Cusco, *Pseudocentrum*, *Solenocentrum lueri*

Introduction. The genus *Solenocentrum* Schltr. encompasses four nominal species found in Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia (Govaerts *et al.* 2020, G. A. Salazar, unpubl. data), and is one of the less-known taxa within subtribe Cranichidinae. Species of this genus are terrestrial or occasionally epiphytic (*S. costaricense* Schltr.) in premontane and montane cloud forests at 1400–2600 m in elevation. The genus is characterized by its rosette of 3–5 long-petiolate leaves with elliptic, slightly asymmetrical, acuminate blades; non-resupinate flowers; free sepals; asymmetric, two-lobed petals; and labellum provided at base with a long, slightly clavate spur (Schlechter 1911, Cribb 2003). Both the petals and the labellum are attached from about the middle to near the apex of the column, which is clavate, with pointed rostellum and four soft pollinia in two unequal pairs (Cribb 2003, Dodson 2004).

Solenocentrum is similar in overall vegetative and floral morphology to *Baskervilla* Lindl., *Ponthieva* R.Br. and *Pseudocentrum* Lindl., but both *Baskervilla*

and *Ponthieva* are easily told apart by their concave labellum lacking a distinct spur (Cribb 2003, Salazar *et al.* 2009). *Solenocentrum* and *Pseudocentrum*, on the other hand, are unique among the Cranichidinae in the possession of a tubular labellum spur, which in *Solenocentrum* is straight, slightly expanded at its apex (i.e. clavate) and fully exposed, whereas in *Pseudocentrum* the spur is strongly inflexed near the apex and enclosed by the connate lateral sepals (Fig. 1A–B).

It is worth noting that, as noted by Dressler (1998) and Dodson (2004), *Solenocentrum asplundii* (Garay) Garay lacks a tubular spur and its overall morphology fits in *Cranichis* Sw., the genus in which it was originally described (Fig. 1C–D). Such placement is in agreement with the results of a phylogenetic analysis of nuclear (ITS) and plastid (*matK*, *trnL-trnF*) DNA sequences (G.A. Salazar, unpubl. data). Hence, in the following we exclude this species from discussion on species of *Solenocentrum*.

The genus *Solenocentrum* has not been recorded

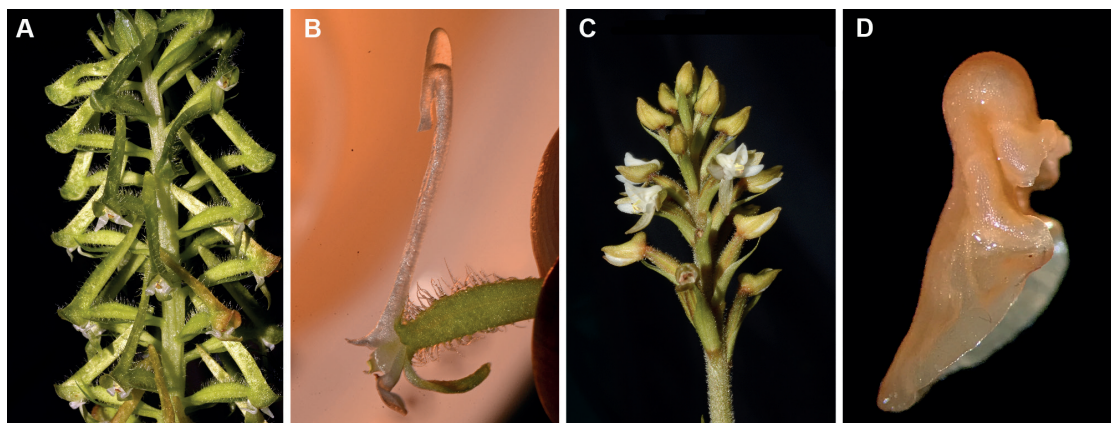


FIGURE 1. **A–B.** *Pseudocentrum purdii* (Ecuador, Salazar 10023). **A.** Close up of inflorescence. **B.** Flower from side with the sepals and petals excised to show the labellum with the tubular spur strongly inflexed near the apex; notice the accumulation of fluid (nectar). **C–D.** *Cranichis* (“*Solenocentrum*”) *asplundii* (Ecuador, Salazar *et al.* 10064). **C.** Inflorescence. **D.** Labellum from side showing the prominently saccate base. Photos by Gerardo A. Salazar.

previously in Perú (Schweinfurth 1958, Brako & Zarucchi 1993, Ulloa Ulloa *et al.* 2004, 2017, Zelenko & Bermudez 2009, Goicochea *et al.* 2019). However, while conducting a revision of specimens of the genus *Baskervilla* as part of a research stay funded by a fellowship from the Missouri Botanical Garden, the senior author found a Peruvian specimen labeled as “*Baskervilla*” but lacking the characteristics of this genus, showing instead a distinct labellum spur. After detailed comparison of its floral traits with the literature and comparison with other specimens, it was clear that it belonged to *Solenocentrum* but it did not match any known species. In the following, we describe the Peruvian entity as a new species, provide a detailed drawing and color photographs and compare it with all known species of *Solenocentrum*.

Materials and methods. Morphological observations and measurements were carried out on pressed specimens and flowers from herbarium specimens softened by immersion in hot soapy water. Photographs were taken with a digital camera (Nikon D810, Nikon Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) provided with a 105 mm AF Micro Nikkor lens (Nikon). The specimen of the new species was compared with other specimens housed in the herbaria MO, HOXA, USM and CUZ (acronyms according to Thiers 2019). Digital images of additional specimens held at SEL and S were also consulted through the JSTOR portal (<https://plants.jstor.org/>). Line drawings of selected specimens examined were

made using a Euromex SB–1903 stereomicroscope and processed with Adobe Photoshop CC v. 14.0.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Solenocentrum oblongum Damián & Mitidieri, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: PERU. Cusco, Prov. La Convención, Dto. Vilcabamba, Oyara, Sarahuasi, bosque primario humedo, 13°01'18"S 072°49'13"W, 2200–2500 m, hierba 30 cm, flores verdes, columna verde amarillenta, 23 Feb 2007, L. Valenzuela, E. Suclli *et al.* 8947 (holotype MO!, isotype CUZ!). Fig. 2, 4A, 5D.

DIAGNOSIS: Similar to *Solenocentrum lueri* Dodson & R.Vásquez, differing in its oblong, sub-pandurate labellum (vs. triangular to sagittate) with rounded base (vs. sagittate), glabrous margins (vs. densely ciliate) and slender oblong calli (vs. broadly ovate).

Terrestrial, acaulescent *herbs*, 22–30 cm tall including the inflorescence. *Roots* fasciculate, terete, fleshy, pilose, 0.2–0.3 cm in diameter. *Leaves* 3–8, forming a basal rosette, with ascending, basally sheathing petioles 4–8 cm long; blades horizontal, elliptic, 7.0–11.5 × 2.6–4.4 cm, basally symmetrical and broadly cuneate, apex acuminate, margins entire. *Inflorescence* racemose, erect, arising from the center of the rosette of leaves, 10–17 cm long; peduncle terete, green, 8–10 cm, with a basal ovate acuminate glabrous bract, 4–8 cm long; above with 3 more bracts

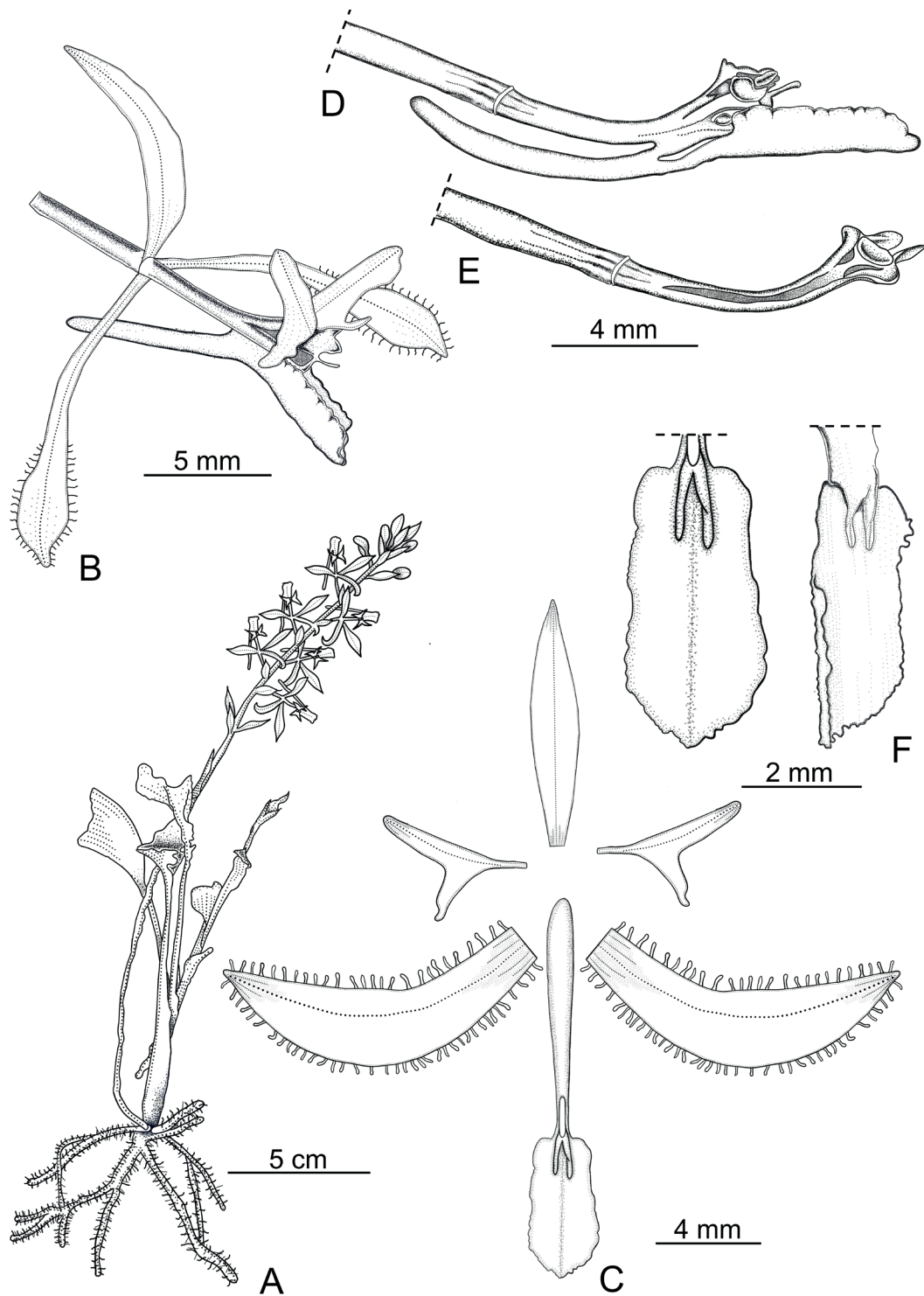


FIGURE 2. *Solenocentrum oblongum* Damián & Mitidieri. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Dissected Flower. **D.** Column and labellum, lateral view. **E.** Column lateral view. **F.** Labellum. Drawn from the holotype by Nicole Mitidieri.



FIGURE 3. Landscape at Oyara-Sarahuasi (Vilcabamba, Cusco), where the holotype of *Solenocentrum oblongum* was collected. Photograph by Luis Valenzuela.

just below the flowers, $1.3\text{--}1.4 \times 0.3$ cm. *Floral bracts* lanceolate, acuminate, glabrous, 3-veined, $1.0\text{--}1.4 \times 0.1\text{--}0.3$ cm. *Flowers* 6–30, non-resupinate; sepals greenish, petals white, labellum greenish with white calli. *Ovary* greenish, terete, glabrous, $0.8\text{--}0.9$ cm long. *Dorsal sepal* erect, convex, slightly recurved at apex, glabrous, narrowly oblanceolate, acute, margins entire, 1-veined, 0.9×0.12 cm. *Lateral sepals* free, spreading, margins densely ciliate and dorsally sparsely pubescent, falcate, acute, 3-veined, midvein conspicuous, lateral veins obscure, 1.1×0.2 cm. *Petals* attached near the apex of the column, glabrous, 1-veined, clawed, two-lobed above the claw, 0.6 total length, 0.3 cm wide near the middle; upper lobe lanceolate, rounded, lower lobe obliquely triangular, subacute. *Labellum* united to the column just under its apex, slightly recurved, oblong, obscurely pandurate, conduplicate, glabrous, 3-veined, with a thickened midvein, obtuse, margins irregularly undulate, 0.47×0.24 cm, provided at base with a callus formed by two terete lobes forming an inverted “V”, 0.17 cm long; spur clavate, minutely pubescent inside, 0.84 cm long. *Column* clavate, glabrous, lacking a foot, 0.85 cm long, provided at each side of the apex with a short triangular wing; anther ovoid, 1.5 mm long; rostellum elongate, acute, 0.8 mm long; stigma suborbicular, slightly convex. *Pollinarium* and *fruits* not seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: *Solenocentrum oblongum* is known only from the locality of Oyara-Sarahuasi (Vilcabamba, Cusco) (Fig. 3). The species was found

growing as a terrestrial in a low montane forest with abundant loose limestone rock and a superficial layer of black soil, between 2200 and 2500 m in elevation. The surrounding vegetation was mainly composed by *Abatia spicata* (Turcz.) Sleumer (Salicaceae), *Clethra revoluta* (Ruiz & Pav.) Spreng., *Hieronyma oblonga* (Tul.) Müll.Arg. (Phyllanthaceae), *Saurauia biserrata* (Ruiz & Pav.) Spreng. (Actinidiaceae), and tree ferns of the genus *Dicksonia* L'Hér. (Dicksoniaceae).

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet refers to the oblong labellum, which easily differentiates this species from its congeners (Fig. 5).

Solenocentrum oblongum is most similar to *S. lueri* (Fig 4B, 5C), so far known only from the montane forest of Carrasco, Bolivia. Both species share similar floral traits, such as an elongate column and ciliate, oblong lateral sepals, but are easily distinguished from each other by their different labellum morphology: triangular to sagittate in *S. lueri* and oblong, sub-pandurate in *S. oblongum*. There is some variation in labellum morphology in *S. lueri*, documented by one of us (SA) in a recent fieldwork close to the type locality. In such recent collection (*Saúl Altamirano 5164*, BOLV), the labellum is not as definitely triangular as described by Dodson and Vásquez (1989), being instead sagittate with broadly obtuse apex and ciliate margins (contrary to the narrowly obtuse and entire margins shown in the protologue).

Both *S. oblongum*, and *S. lueri* grow in cloud forest of the eastern slope of the Andes at 2200–2600 m in elevation. The Bolivian and Peruvian populations of these species are separated from each other by about 950 km in a straight line, and the presence of this genus in intermediate areas like Puno in Peru and La Paz in Bolivia is highly probable. The two Central American species (*S. costaricense* and *S. maasii*) are easily distinguished by their wider lobulate lateral sepals, sub-triangular petals and short column (3–4 mm long) (Fig. 5 A–B). In contrast, *S. oblongum* bears oblong non-lobulate lateral sepals, two-lobed petals and long column (8.5 mm).

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: *Solenocentrum lueri* Dodson & R.Vásquez. **Bolivia:** Prov. Carrasco, cloud forest below Monte Puncu along Río Lope Mendoza, 2400–2600 m, 1 Feb. 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer & et

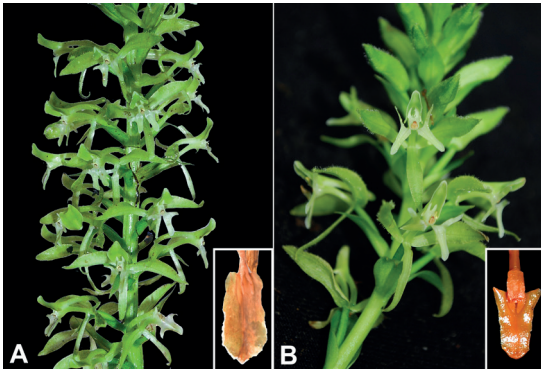


FIGURE 4. Inflorescence and spread out labellum of *Solenocentrum oblongum* Damián & Mitidieri (A) and *Solenocentrum lueri* Dodson & R.Vásquez (B). Photographs by Luis Valenzuela (A) and Saul Altamirano (B).

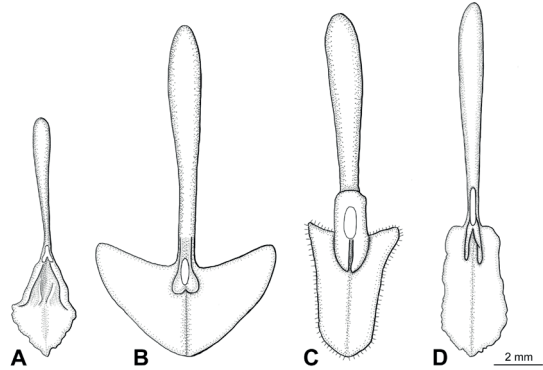


FIGURE 5. Labellum comparison of known species of *Solenocentrum*. A. *S. maasii* [holotype Maas 1479 (MO)]. B. *S. costaricense* [Soto 78 (MO)]. C. *S. lueri* [Altamirano 5164 (BOLV)]. D. *S. oblongum* [holotype Valenzuela *et al.* 8947 (MO)]. Illustration by Nicole Mitidieri.

al. 5829 (SEL-photo); Departamento Cochabamba, Prov. Carrasco, Sehuencas, bosque húmedo montano, 30 Jan 2019, 17.29.13 65.16.29, 2351 m, Saúl Altamirano 5164 (BOLV). *Solenocentrum costaricense* Schltr. **Costa Rica**: Prov. Puntarenas, Cordillera de Talamanca, forested slopes along the Río Buru, upper slopes of Cerro Buru, ca. 9 01 N, 82, 52 W, 1900 m, 19 Aug. 1983, G. Davidse, L.D. Gomez & *et al.* 23757 (MO); Prov. Cartago, Río Amigos, 8

km S. of Tapantí, 1600 m, 17 Oct. 1971, Roy W. Lent 2200 (MO); Puntarenas, Canton de Puntarenas, R.B. Bosque Eterno de los Niños. Cuencas del Lagarto y Guacimal. Monteverde, Sendero Chomogo y el Roble. 10°18'00"N 84°48'00"W, 1600 m, 19 Oct. 1997, Armando Soto 78 (MO). *Solenocentrum maasii* Dressler. **Costa Rica**: Prov. Puntarenas, Las Alturas and vicinity forest, 1800 m, 26 Aug 1974, P.J.M. Maas & B. Mc. Alpin 1479 (MO).

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *SOLENOCENTRUM*

- 1 Lateral sepals conspicuously lobulate; column < 5 mm long, less than one half as long as the labellum spur; restricted to Central America (Costa Rica and Panama) 2
2. Sepals up to 13 × 7 mm; labellum lunate with conspicuous basal lobes; ovary glandular-pilose *S. costaricense*
- 2a. Sepals up to 7 × 5 mm; labellum ovate, devoid of lobes; ovary glabrous *S. maasii*
- 1a. Lateral sepals non-lobulate; column 8–10 mm; restricted to the Andes (Peru and Bolivia) 3
3. Labellum triangular to sagittate, margins ciliate *S. lueri*
- 3a. Labellum oblong, sub-pandurate, margins glabrous *S. oblongum*

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