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(Orchidaceae: Cypripedioideae), two exciting new natural
hybrids from Colombia**

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***Phragmipedium x daguense* and *P. x narinense* (Orchidaceae: Cyripedioideae), two exciting new natural hybrids from Colombia**

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Abstract

Two new natural hybrids within the *Phragmipedium schlimii* complex are described and illustrated.

Key words: Plant Systematics, Taxonomy, original description, *Phragmipedium schlimii* complex

Introduction

During our work toward a monograph of the genus *Phragmipedium*, we became aware of the fact that the group of orchids now generally regarded as the “*Phragmipedium schlimii* complex” is much more variable than expected. In this context, the appearance of natural hybrids does not really surprise. Here, we present two such natural hybrids: (1) *Phragmipedium x daguense* (Fig. 1a), being an intermediate form between *P. andreettae* Cribb & Pupulin (Fig. 1b) and *P. schlimii* (Linden & Rchb. f.) Rolfe (Fig. 1c), and (2) *P. x narinense*, being the intermediate between *P. fischeri* Braem & Mohr and *P. anguloi* Braem, Tesón & Manzur.

Taxonomy

1. *Phragmipedium x daguense* Braem & Tesón, *nat. hybr. nov.*

Diagnosis: Intermediate form between *Phragmipedium andreettae* and *P. schlimii*.

Type:- COLOMBIA, Dagua, Valle del Cauca, ex hort. Tesón. Herbario Nacional Colombiano (COL !)

Etymology: Named for the area of discovery.

Plants of this natural hybrid were found amidst a *Phragmipedium andreettae* population near some quebradas close to the Cali-Buenaventura road. The flower is larger than those of the *P. andreettae* plants and the pouch is spherical and has no fenestrations. The staminode is very much like the staminode of *P. schlimii* flowers. The plants are self-pollinating and the flower is virtually identical to the man-made hybrid registered as *Phragmipedium* ‘Ely’s Colombian Pride’ by Dr. Tesón in 2013 (Fig. 2).

Phragmipedium x daguense has hitherto been found at elevations between 1,000 and 1,300 meters, but its distribution is likely to be more extended (Fig. 3). At the known habitats, the plants grow in much dryer conditions than *P. andreettae*. As they are embedded in taller vegetation, the plants are difficult to spot (Fig. 4).

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Figure 1. Flower of (a) *Phragmipedium* x *daguense* Braem & Tesón, (b) *P. andreettae*, and (c) *P. schlimii* (E. Tesón).



Figure 2. Flower of *Phragmipedium x daguense* Braem & Tesón (left; E. Tesón), and *Phragmipedium* 'Ely's Colombian Pride' (right; Mike Talbot).

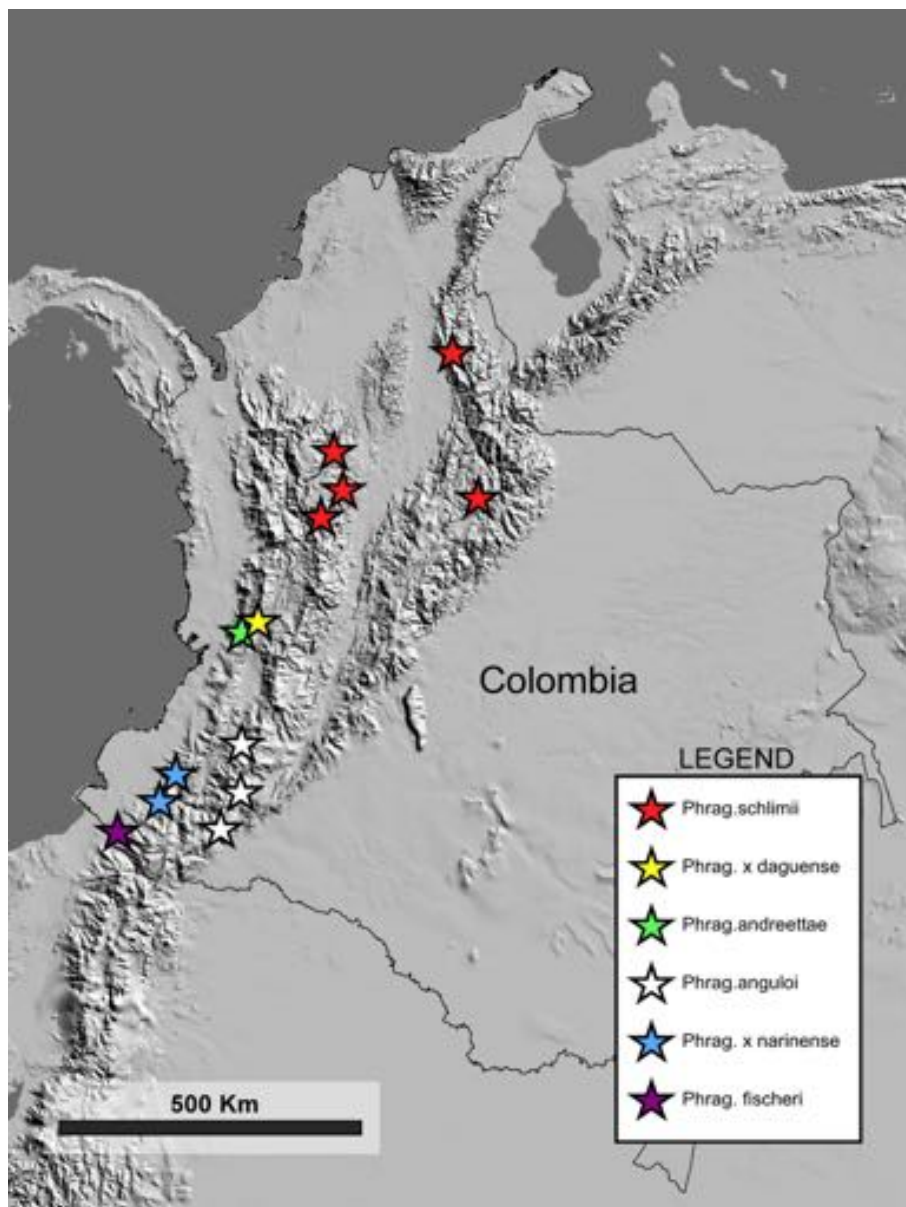


Figure 3. Distribution of *Phragmipedium schlimii* complex (E. Tesón).



Figure 4. Habitat of *Phragmipedium x daguense* (Daniel Heller).

2. *Phragmipedium x narinense* Tesón & Braem, *nat. hybr. nov.* (Fig. 5a)

Diagnosis: Intermediate form between *Phragmipedium anguloi* (Fig. 5b) and *P. fischeri* (Fig. 5c).

Type:- COLOMBIA, Departamento de Nariño, ex hort. Tesón. Herbario Nacional Colombiano (COL !)

Etymology: Named for the area of discovery.

About 90 km from the *Phragmipedium fischeri* population on the border between Colombia

and Ecuador and about 100 km south of the *P. anguloi* population at the Hopp site (Schlechter, 1924), a population of plants was found that clearly shows intermediate characteristics between the two species. Interestingly, some of the plants have flowers that are closer to those of *P. fischeri* (Fig. 5a.1) and other show blooms that are obviously more like those of *P. anguloi* (Fig. 5a.2).

Hitherto, three populations have been found, all growing in pockets filled with moss on an acid, rocky substrate (Fig. 6) at elevations between 1,600 and 1,700 meters on both sides of small creeks in the vicinity of Ricaurte (Fig. 3).

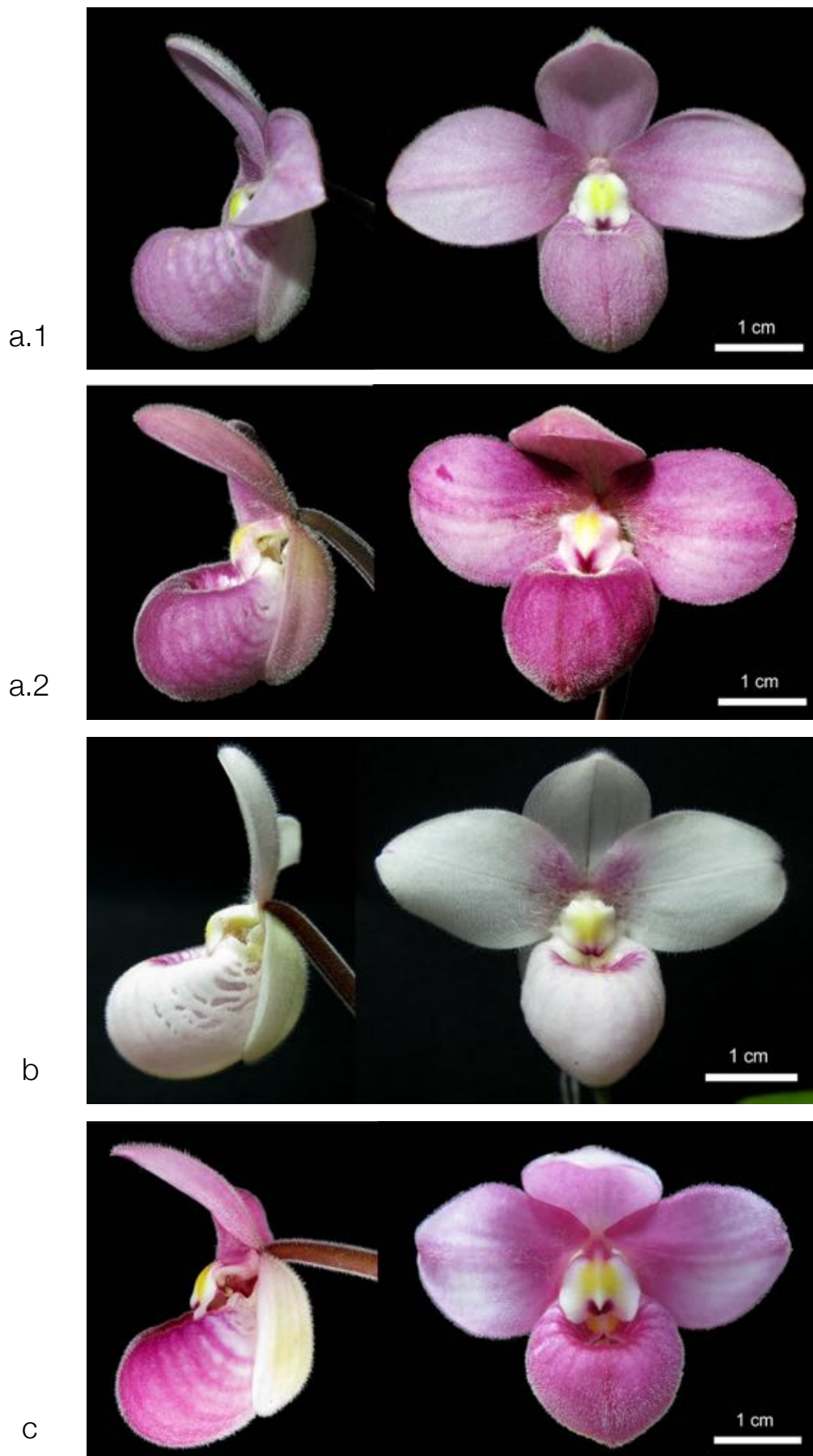


Figure 5. Flower of (a.1) *Phragmipedium* x *narinense* “anguloi-type”, (a.2) “fischeri-type”, (b) *P. anguloi*, and (c) *P. fischeri* (E. Tesón).



Figure 6. Habitat of *Phragmipedium x narinense*.

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