

A NEW SPECIES OF THE ORCHID GENUS HOFFMANNSEGGELLA

H. G. JONES

The genus *Hoffmannseggella* was established by the author (Jones, 1968) to accommodate the species which were formerly assigned to the section *Cyrtolaelia* (Schlechter, 1917) of the genus *Laelia*. In his review of *Laelia* published in 1952, the late Dr. F. C. Hoehne, who probably knew these plants better than anyone else, wrote: "Indubitavelmente, elas se distinguem tanto das que constituem as outras secções, que poderiam ser agrupadas como gênero distinto"; and later in the same paper; "Acreditamos, entretanto, que haverá vantagem . . . e razão para separar a secção *Cyrtolaelia* de *Laelia* como gênero distinto."

Apart from *Laelia*, one other generic name has been associated with *Hoffmannseggella cinnabarina* (Batem.) H. G. Jones, which is the generic type of *Hoffmannseggella*: in 1843 Hoffmannsegg had transferred this species to his new genus, *Amalias*. Unfortunately, in the original publication of *Amalias* (1842), Hoffmannsegg had made only one specific combination, and this was based upon *Laelia anceps* Lindl., which is a true species of *Laelia*, not belonging to the section *Cyrtolaelia*. Consequently, since *Amalias anceps* (Lindl.) Hoff. automatically becomes the type-species of *Amalias*, this name must be treated as a generic synonym of *Laelia*, and was not available for use for the species of section *Cyrtolaelia*, when the latter were raised to generic rank.

The genus *Hoffmannseggella* falls naturally into two fairly distinct sections: in the typical section (sect. *Hoffmannseggella*), the pseudobulbs are short and thick — conical, subfusiform or ovoid in shape — and the flower-scapes quite tall, usually much longer than the leaves. In the species of sect. *Pleurothalloides*, however, the pseudobulbs are reduced to slender cylindrical stems; and the flower-scapes are much shorter, about equal to or very

slightly longer than the leaves. This gives the plants a rather distinct resemblance to the genus *Pleurothallis* — hence the sectional name — a resemblance which has been commented upon by Reichenbach (1874) and by Hoehne (1930). In the course of delimiting the species of the latter section for my projected monograph of the genus, I have found it necessary to recognize one new species, which is described and named below.

Hoffmannseggella brevicaulis H. G. Jones, sp. nov.

Species affinis *H. harpophyllae* a qua caulibus multo brevioribus, floribus majoribus labello apice anguste attenuato facile distinguitur. Epiphytica, erecta, circa 24 cm alta; rhizomate valde abbreviato; radicibus albescentibus, filiformibus, flexuosis, glabris; caulibus cylindraceis, unifoliatis, circa 7 cm longis; folio erecto oblongo, coriaceo, apice obtuso vel subacuto, circa 17 cm longo, medio circa 2 cm lato. Racemus erectus vel suberectus, 2-3-florus, quam folio multo brevior; floribus luteis, circa 6.5 cm diametribus: sepalis oblongis, apice acutis, circa 3.5 cm longis, medio circa 9 mm latis; petalis quam sepalia aequimagnis vel paulo brevioribus; labello circa 3 cm longo, medio circa 1.5 cm lato, parte superiore profunde trilobo, carinis 2 parallelis elevatis, acutis; lobis lateralis subovatis, acutis; lobo mediano elongato, anguste attenuato, apice multo acuminato. Columna crassa subcylindrica, circa 1 cm longa, medio circa 4 mm lata; ovario pedicellato glabro, circa 4 cm longo.

Type: Brazil, habitat not recorded — flowered under cultivation in Barbados, Feb. 1967. *Herb Jones*. H(L)/19a.

This taxon has been previously referred to by the author in another paper (Jones 1970). It first came to my attention during the course of examining the specimens of *H. harpophylla* (Rchb.f.) H. G. Jones, preserved in Reichenbach's herbarium (Naturhistorischen Museums, Vienna), when I noticed that two of the sheets included under this name were obviously atypical. These were subsequently found to agree with cultivated specimens from Brazil which

undoubtedly represented an undescribed species, somewhat related to *H. harpophylla*, but easily distinguished by the characters described in the above diagnosis, which may be summarized as follows:—

H. HARPOPHYLLA

1. Plants tall and rather loose; pseudobulbs longer than the leaves.
2. Leaves narrow, tapering to a slender, acute point.
3. Inflorescence numerous, 6-8-flowered.
4. Flowers rich orange-red.
5. Sepals and petals narrow, usually less than 6 mm wide.
6. Front lobe of the labellum broadening outwards from the base, apex obtuse.

H. BREVICAULIS

1. Plants shorter and more compact; pseudobulbs shorter than the leaves.
2. Leaves broader, apex obtuse or subacute.
3. Inflorescence 2-3-flowered.
4. Flowers yellow.
5. Sepals and petals broader, 7-9 mm wide.
6. Front lobe of the labellum very narrow, tapering to a long, slender point.

H. brevicaulis is also related to another quite recently-discovered species, *H. Kautskyi* (Pabst) H. G. Jones (**Hoffmannseggella Kautskyi** (Pabst) H. G. Jones, comb. nov. Basionym: *Laelia Kautskyi* Pabst in Orch. Rev. 78: 321. 1970). The latter species resembles *H. brevicaulis* in the color of the flowers, but the habit, the form of the labellum, and the flowering period are all different. All the species of *Hoffmannseggella* are confined geographically to Brazil.

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