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Holothrix klimkoana Szlach. & Marg. (Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae), a new species from Angola

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ABSTRACT

SZLACHETKO, D. L. & H. B. MARGOŃSKA (2006). *Holothrix klimkoana* Szlach. & Marg. (Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae), a new species from Angola. *Candollea* 61: 467-470. In English, English and French abstracts.

Holothrix klimkoana Szlach. & Marg. (Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae), new species from Angola, is described, illustrated and compared to its closest relative, *H. longiflora* Rolfe.

RÉSUMÉ

SZLACHETKO, D. L. & H. B. MARGOŃSKA (2006). *Holothrix klimkoana* Szlach. & Marg. (Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae), une nouvelle espèce décrite d'Angola. *Candollea* 61: 467-470. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

Holothrix klimkoana Szlach. & Marg. (Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae), nouvelle espèce d'Angola, est décrite, illustrée et comparée au taxon le plus proche, *H. longiflora* Rolfe.

KEY-WORDS: ORCHIDACEAE – ORCHIDOIDEAE – *Holothrix* – Africa

The genus *Holothrix* was described by LINDLEY (1835). It embraces about 50-60 species distributed widely in Africa with a few in tropical Arabia. They are characterized by 1 or 2 small, ellipsoid or ovoid tubers. The one or two leaves are sessile, reniform, ovate to orbicular, radical, often papillose or hairy. The stem is erect with or without cauline bracts, glabrous, papillose or hairy. The inflorescence is terminal, many-flowered. The flowers are resupinate, often secund, sessile to pedicellate, tubular or widened apically. The sepals are usually smaller than the petals, often hairy. The petals are usually divided into 3 or more fleshy, finger-like or filiform segments. The lip is similar to the petals with a cylindrical spur (SZLACHETKO & OLSZEWSKI, 1998; PRIDGEON & al., 2001). The gynostemium is adnate to the lip basally. The stigma is 2-lobed, with lobes divergent, small. The rostellum is shelf-like, truncate, indistinctly 3-lobed, middle lobe small, folded, side lobes flat, separated from one another. The viscidia are minute, two, with very short caudicles. The anther is more or less ovoid to ellipsoid, erect, connective relatively wide, with locules parallel. Anther basal projections obscure the rostellum side lobes and viscidia. The pollinia are sectile. Auricles absent (SZLACHETKO & RUTKOWSKI, 2000).

While working on “Contribution to the Orchid Flora of Central West Africa (Tchad, Cameroon, Republic of Central Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Principe, Sao Tome, Congo, Gabon, Angola)”, we had access to herbarium and liquid preserved specimens kept in various collections. Among materials from Angola, deposited at the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris, we found specimens belonging to the genus *Holothrix*, with lip and petals deeply dissected into filiform segments. At first it appeared to be similar to *H. longiflora* Rolfe, from which it is easily distinguished by its secondarily divided petals and sepals. In our opinion the specimens from Angola represent an unknown taxon, which deserves to be recognized as a new species.

Holothrix klimkoana Szlach. & Marg., **spec. nova** (Fig. 1).

Type: ANGOLA: Humbe et bords du Cunene, Tyipelongo-Mucope-Donguena, 1910-1920, *Bonneforex & Villain 62* (holo-: P!; iso-: P!).

Species haec H. longiflorae affinis sed petalis secundariter ramosis recedit.

Stem 30-38 cm tall, erect, stout, densely hairy, with 2 cauline bracts above. Leaves 2, one larger than the other, 2.5-3.5 cm long, 2.5-4 cm wide, adpressed to ground, opposite, cordate to reniform, obtuse, sparsely hairy. Inflorescence 6.5-12 cm long, densely 10-18-flowered, secund. Floral bracts up to 12 mm long, densely hairy. Dorsal sepal 8.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, oblong-ovate, apiculate, concave, ciliate. Petals up to 35 mm long, 1-2 mm wide in the basal part, ribbon-like, above slightly expanded and divided into 3 slender lobes, which are secondarily divided into 3 filiform segments each. Lateral sepals 8 mm long, 3 mm wide, obliquely lanceolate-ovate, apiculate, ciliate. Lip up to 32 mm long, ribbon-like in the lower half, then much expanded and divided into 3 main lobes, which are secondarily divided into numerous filiform elements. Spur 4 mm long, conical, forming a complete loop, acute. Gynostemium 2 mm high. Ovary 8-10 mm long, hairy.

Etymology. – Dedicated to Prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Klimko, Polish taxonomist and botanist.

Ecology. – No data available.

General distribution. – Endemic to Angola?

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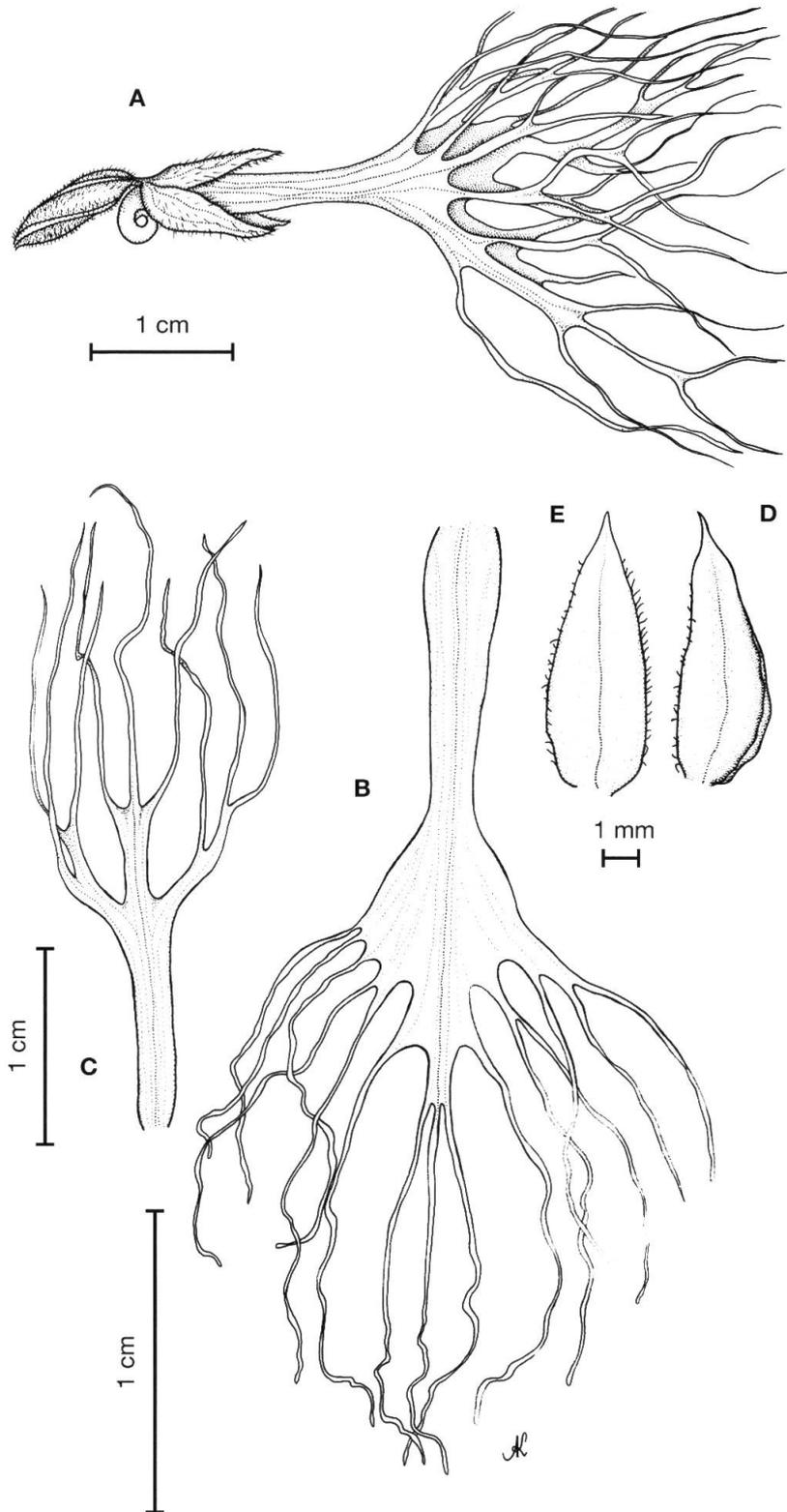


Fig. 1. – *Holothrix klimkoana* Szlach. & Marg. **A**: flower; **B**: lip; **C**: petal; **D**: dorsal sepal; **E**: lateral sepal.

[*Bonneforex & Villain 62, P*] (Drawings by Agnieszka Kowalkowska)