

Veyretella flabellata (Orchidaceae, Habenariinae), a new species from Gabon

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Veyretella flabellata Szlach., Marg. & Mytnik *sp. nova* (Orchidaceae, Habenariinae) is described from Gabon and illustrated in line drawings.

Key words: Orchidaceae, Habenariinae, new species, taxonomy, *Veyretella*

Habenaria hetaerioides from Gabon is unique amongst Habenariinae by its habit, similar to the members of the subtribe Goodyerinae (Spiranthoideae) rather than to any other Orchidoideae *sensu* Szlachetko (1995). This character is reflected in the specific epithet: *hetaerioides* means resembling *Hetaeria*, a Goodyerinae genus found in African tropics. *Habenaria hetaerioides* has been placed in the genus *Cynorkis* (Szlachetko 1995), but it does not fit there. After detailed studies of its gynostemium and flowers it became clear that it should be separated from both *Cynorkis* and *Habenaria*. Szlachetko and Olszewski (1998) established the genus *Veyretella* for *H. hetaerioides*. While revising herbarium materials for the Orchidaceae volume of the *Flore du Gabon* project we came across a specimen, which belongs to *Veyretella* but differs from the other species of the genus.

Veyretella flabellata Szlach., Marg. & Mytnik, *sp. nova* (Figs. 1 and 2)

Species haec V. hetaerioidi similis, sed labello flabelliformi basi latissimo, lobis lateralibus

rudimentalis. Callus crassissimus.

TYPE: Gabon. Moyen Ogooue, 13 km E de Belle Vue, 0°35'S, 10°37'E, 13.I.1987 *Dibata 41* (holotype WAG).

Terrestrial. Rhizome ca. 10 cm long, 0.1–0.15 cm in diameter, creeping, delicate. Stem ca. 9 cm tall, erect, delicate, glabrous. Leaves 10, cauline, petiolate; petiole 1–1.5 cm long, narrow, sheath-like at base; blade 2–3 cm long, 1–1.5 cm wide, obliquely ovate-lanceolate to oblong-ovate, acute. Inflorescence 2-flowered. Flowers small, non-resupinate, glabrous, white. Floral bracts 3–4 mm long, almost elliptic, thin, delicate, obscurely apiculate. Pedicel and ovary 4–5 mm long, narrowly cylindrical, erect. Dorsal sepal 4.2 mm long, 2 mm wide, oblong-elliptic, cochleate, cucullate at apex, acute, 3-nerved. Petals 4.2 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, linear to linear-oblongate, subacute to shortly apiculate, delicate, single-nerved. Lateral sepals 4.5 mm long, 2.2 mm wide, obliquely ovate-lanceolate, acute, 3-nerved. Lip 4.6 mm long, 4.8 mm wide, flabellate in general outline, rounded at the apex, truncate at base; lateral lobes rudimentary. Basal lip callus prominent. Spur 11.5 mm long,

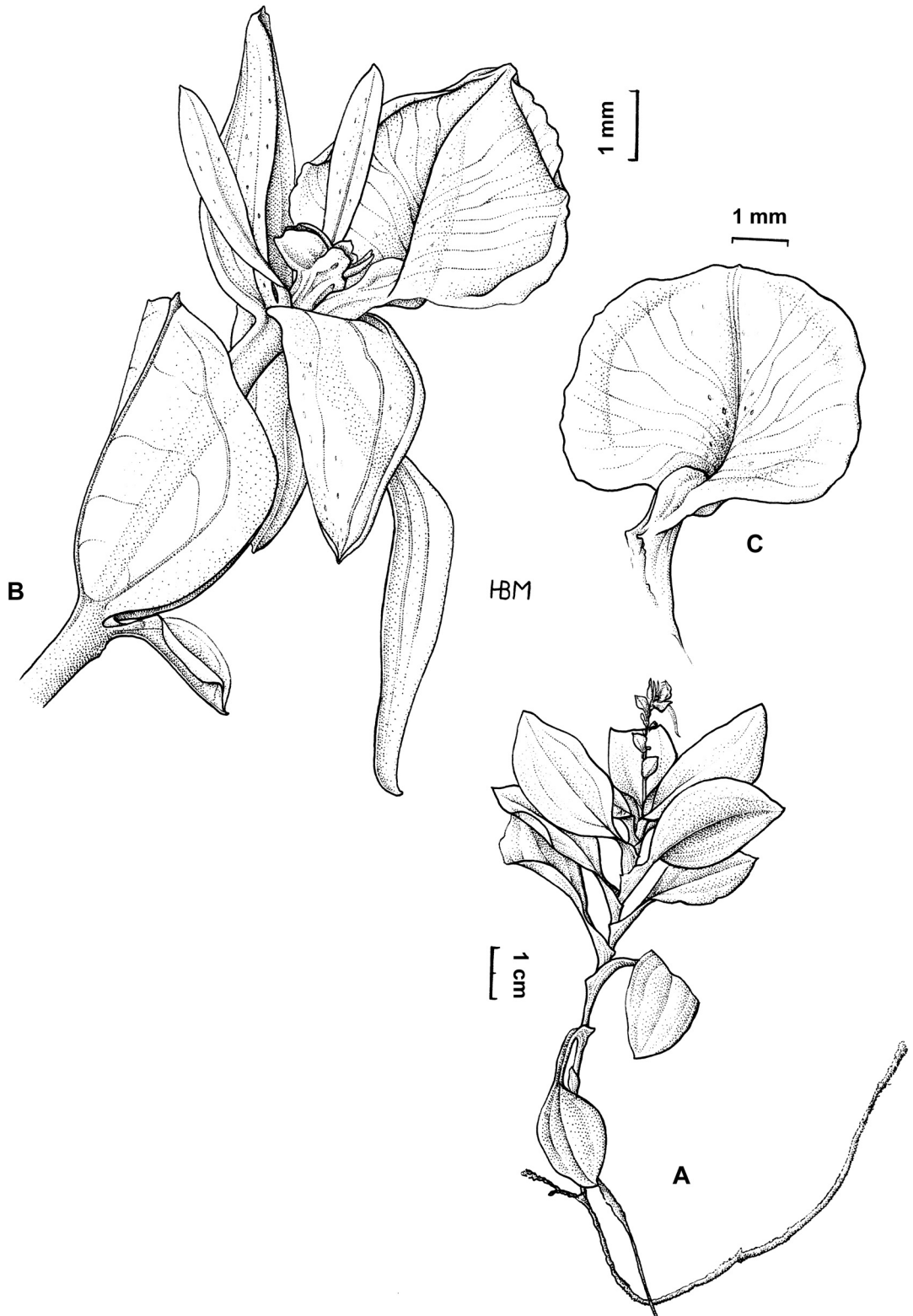


Fig. 1. *Veyretella flabellata* (from holotype). — A: Habit. — B: Flower. — C: Lip.

0.9 mm in diameter, sigmoidally curved, narrowly cylindrical, slightly swollen near middle, attenuate towards acute apex. Gynostemium 1.5 mm long, typical for genus.

ETYMOLOGY. In reference to the lip shape.

DISTRIBUTION. Known so far from the type collection only.

Veyretella flabellata is easily distinguished from *V. hetaerioides* by the lip morphology. The lip of *V. hetaerioides* is 3-lobed, with the median lobe being the largest, triangular-obovate in general outline, widest at the truncate apex; the lateral lobes are much smaller and unequally 3-dentate on the margins. The lip of *V. flabellata* is flabellate, rounded at the apex, widest at the truncate base, and the lateral lobes are rudimentary.

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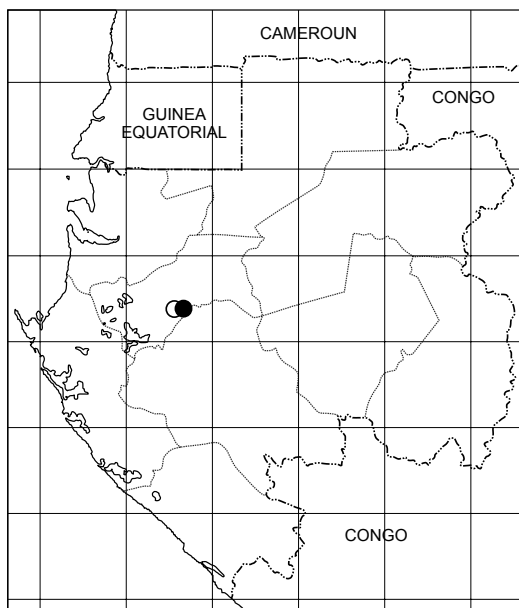


Fig. 2. Distribution map of *Veyretella flabellata* (solid dot) and *V. hetaerioides* (circle).

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