



Note on the *Verapazia* vs. *Marsupiara* (Pleurothallidinae, Orchidaceae) issue, with some new combinations

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The name *Verapazia* has been given by Archila (1999) to a new genus of Pleurothallidinae. This genus is characterized by a set of floral features : inflorescence *Pabstiella*-type (longer than leaf, very thin, slightly zig-zag-shaped, indefinitely growing, only 1 flower at a time, usually pubescent, pedicel very long), flower neither campanulate nor closed, lying in a plane, floral bracts inconspicuous, not wrapping the peduncle, apex of the sepals *Dracula*-type, elongate, dorsal sepal acuminate, lateral sepals united only basally, sepals 4-5 times longer than column, pubescent or dentate-pubescent, lip motile, basally with a pair of inconspicuous lateral appendices, very ornate and usually pubescent, mostly spathulate or subspathulate, apically rounded, bilobed in the proximal part with lobes folded above the lip lamina, adaxially geniculate ; the lip is always a darker colour simulating a fly abdomen, an adaptation to pseudocopulation (Archila, pers. comm.).

Only one species, *Verapazia exesilabia*, based on *Pleurothallis exesilabia* A.H. Heller & A.D. Hawkes (1966: 11), was, at that time, included in this new genus. Unfortunately, according to the Art. 40.1 of the International Code of Nomenclature (ICN), the generic name was not validly published because the author did not explicitly flag this single species as the type species. It is treated as such as well in IPNI (2018) and WCSP (2018).

A few years later the author, becoming aware of it, published again the name (Archila, 2002). This time the publication complied with the ICN rules (Art. 29.1, 32.1, 37, 38, 40) and the name, having thus been validly published, is legitimate.

Inexplicably this second publication went unnoticed and the only reference hitherto found under the name *Verapazia* is still the 1999 publication.

Later again Luer, being unaware of the Archila's genus, proposed a new genus for exactly the same group of Pleurothallidinae, *Muscarella* (Luer, 2006 : 94).

Karremans *et al.* (2016) showed, based on their molecular analysis, that this group should be treated as a good genus, although they treated it under the name *Muscarella*, with only reference to the 1999 Archila publication, not to the 2002 one. Unfortunately the type species of *Verapazia* is not included in their study.

Conclusion

According to ICN Art. 11.3, *Muscarella* Luer is of course a mere synonym of *Verapazia* Archila.

Most species of the group have been transferred to *Verapazia* by Archila (2011). However a few species have been added to the genus since that time, for which new combinations are needed.

Verapazia barberiana (Reichenbach. f.) Chiron & Szlachetko, *comb. nov.*

basionym: *Pleurothallis barberiana* Reichenbach f., *Gardeners' Chronicle* ns 16: 6 (1881)

Verapazia cabellensis (Reichenbach. f.) Chiron & Szlachetko, *comb. nov.*

basionym: *Pleurothallis cabellensis* Reichenbach f., *Linnaea* 22: 832 (1850)

Verapazia mucronata (Lindley ex Cogniaux) Chiron & Szlachetko, *comb. nov.*

basionym: *Pleurothallis mucronata* Lindley ex Cogniaux, in Urban, *Symbolae Antillanae* 6: 424 (1909)

Verapazia obliquipetala (Acuña & C. Schweinfurth) Chiron & Szlachetko, *comb. nov.*

basionym: *Pleurothallis obliquipetala* Acuña & C. Schweinfurth, *Botanical Museum Leaflets [Harvard Univ.]* 6: 3 (1938)

Verapazia segregatifolia (O. Ames & C. Schweinfurth) Chiron & Szlachetko, *comb. nov.*

basionym: *Pleurothallis segregatifolia* O. Ames & C. Schweinfurth, *Schedulae Orchidianaes* 8: 33 (1925)

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