The Third Species of the Genus *Pachyplectron* Schltr., Orchidaceae

by

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The genus *Pachyplectron* is endemic to New Caledonia. Until now, two species, namely *P. arifolium* Schltr. and *P. necaledonicum* Schltr., have been recorded. The third species, a plant without normal leaf, is newly described here.

*Pachyplectron aphyllum* T. Hashimoto, sp. nov. (Fig. 1 & 2)

Differto a *P. arifolium* planta aphylla, petalis lateralis subtruncatis cum denticulatis, labello apice deltoideo et subacuto.

Plant terrestrial, saprophytic, 22 cm high on the ground, glabrous. Roots fascicled, slender-tuberous, glabrous. Leaves reduced to scales; scales 11 including basal 3, white with dark brownish splashes, membranaceous; basal scales ovate with an acute or acuminate tapering tip, 8–12 mm long; scapose scales narrowly ovate with an acuminate tapering tip, ca. 15 mm long. Scape simple, white with dark brownish splashes, erect, 21 cm long including a terminal inflorescence. Inflorescence 9 cm long, loosely 6-flowered. Bracteole green at the anterior 1/3, white with dark purplish splashes at the basal 2/3, narrowly ovate-lanceolate with an acute or caudately acuminate tip, clasping, shorter than the ovary, 8–11 mm long. Flowers ca. 1 cm across in natural position; sepals light green with dark purplish dots; dorsal sepal elliptic-ovate, subacute, concave, 1–nerved, 6 mm long, 3 mm broad, forming a hood together with petals; lateral sepals obliquely obovate, long-decurrent on the ovary at the oblique base, with the free portion spreading, acute, 1–nerved, 9.5 mm long, 3.1 mm broad; petals light green with dark margins, subfalcate, subtruncated with minute teeth, 1–nerved, as long as the dorsal sepal, ca. 2.5 mm broad; lip dark purple outside, white inside, medially adnate to the lower half of column, ca. 11 mm long totally, tubular involute with a spathulate and subacute epichile of which an anterior portion is triangular, posteriorly provided a 4–5 mm long, green spur of which bilobed longitudinally, hairy inside; column with yellowish white tips of clinandrium which embrace the anther; anther yellowish chestnut; ovary white with dark purplish splashes, ascending, subcylindric-ovoid, 12 mm long.

NEW CALEDONIA. Near the Great Kaori, Parc Provincial de la Rivière Blue, Dec. 11, 1997, coll. by T. Hashimoto – holotype in TNS.

This new species is closely related to *Pachyplectron arifolium* Schltr. but differs from it by the leafless state, *i.e.*, saprophytic habit, subtruncate with a denticulate apex of petals and the triangular front of the lip.

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Fig. 1. Flower of Pachyplectron aphyllum.
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Fig. 2. *Pachyplectron aphyllum*, plant in habitat.

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抹要

Pachyplectron 属はニューカレドニア特産で、2 種が知られていた。昨年パヌアツの山地植物相調査のおりに同島を経由し、リピエール・ブルー自然公園内の森林内の植物を採集した。その際この属第 3 番目の種を発見したので、ここに発表する。この植物は P. arifolium に近縁であるが、普通葉がない腐生種で、花弁（側弁）の先が平たく、平たい部分には微細な刻みがあること、唇弁の先がほぼ三角形で尖っていることから新種と判断した。

References