

THE 2020 AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(REVISED 19 JAN 2021)

Charles Wilson, Chair
AOS Conservation Committee



With special thanks to the committee
members and advisers:

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PROGRESS REPORT
2019 GRANT
AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY
LA RESERVA ORQUIDEAS

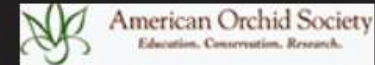
2019

\$7,500 to Identify, catalog and preserve *in situ* the species in this preserve recently purchased by the Colombia Orchid Society.

The report is on the website and an article about this work was in the November 2020 edition of Orchids.

The Colombian Orchid Society received assistance from the American Orchid Society during 2019 with the purpose of supporting research and conservation of orchids in the cloud forest of Jardin, Antioquia, particularly in “La Reserva Orquídeas.” This grant money has been used in the following activities:

- We have held 2 workshops at La Reserva Orquídeas, and are aiming for 6 more that will be held before February 2020, we have reached about 40 people so far and aim to reach 60 more including children.
- We have done three public national and one international public talks disseminating activities and results of our ongoing efforts in Conservation.
- We will have observation trails, a video and education booklets in place before February 2020 to keep promoting conservation at La Reserva Orquídeas in the future.



Orchids identification



Work has been done on the identification of orchid genera and species that have been found at the Reserva. Experts in different groups of orchids such as: Mark Wilson in Pleurothallis, Eric Hagsater in Epidendrum and some others have been consulted. Three species are under study and appear to be new species.



Phragmipedium schlimii (Linden) Braem



Odontoglossum ramosissimum Lindl.



Epidendrum sp.



Lepanthes sp. New species



Field guides for use in environmental education and tourism at La Reserva Orquídeas

**Diversity of orchid species in the Guanacas Reserve, Antioquia, Colombia
(\$3,447 to establish baseline identified inventory of orchid species in the
reserve near Medellin in northwest Colombia)**

2019

RESULTS: Identification of 50 morphospecies distributed in 15 genera (Table 1), are reported on a preliminary basis. The best represented genera were in their order: Epidendrum (14 species), Pleurothallis (8 species), Stelis (5 species) and *Mesaspiza* (5 species).



Figure 1. Collection of orchid specimens in the Guanacas reserve.



Figure 2. Herbalization of orchid specimens in the Guanacas reserve.



Figure 3. Orchids of the Guanacas reserve. *Sobralia* sp. (left); *Epidendrum aura-usecheae* (right).



Figure 4. Orchids of the Guanacas reserve. *Pleurothallis megalorhina* (left); *Odontoglossum sceptrum* (right).



Figure 5. Orchids of the Guanacas reserve. *Porroglossum muscosum* (left); *Andinia hipocreppica* (right).



2019

Conservation & Ecology of Western North American Cypripediums with Tara Luna

(\$3,447 to continue studying conservation insights on the species' range and pollination ecology)

Presented as an educational webinar in Oct 2019 and also as articles in Orchids magazine (Mar 2019 and Sept 2020).

Two 2020 Philip E. Keenan Awards recognizing excellence in Conservation:

Dr. Andy Huber at 260 acre Grande Ronde Overlook Wildflower Institute Serving Ecological Restoration (GROWISER) in Eastern Oregon for orchid habitat restoration. (Orchids article Sept 2020)

Jennifer Reinoso of Deland, Florida, for conservation and education efforts for the Lance-headed or Leafless Beaked Orchid (*Sacoila lanceolata*) in Florida. (article in Aug 2020 Orchids and a webinar Dec 2019)



Conservation Projects funded for 2020-21

Alex Lansdowne - Reintroduce two highly endangered, locally extinct terrestrial South African Disas
($\$2,245.00$ first year of two year plan for $\$4,240$)

Vincent Droissart/Tariq Stevart - Long-term conservation of the most threatened Malagasy orchids
(first year funding of $\$3,360.00$ of total potential for two years of $\$10,189.00$)

Julia Douglas - The biocultural restoration of *Prosthechea karwinskii* to the wild after ceremonial use in Oaxaca, Mexico ([Webinar coming Spring 2021](#)) (one year $\$3,563.00$)

Farah Alia Binti-Nordin - Survey of orchid species found in limestone areas of Malaysia
(second year funding of $\$2,600.00$ after first year funding of $\$3,500.00$)

Jean M. Hervouet - Protection of the Ambodiriana forest in Madagascar ([Orchids article Sept 2020](#))
(first year funding of $\$3,180.00$ of potential for two years of $\$5,085.00$)

Jyotsna Sharma (Univ. of Texas) – US orchid habitat restoration, propagation and reintroduction of two distinctly isolated populations of *Platanthera chapmanii* in Florida and Texas)
(first year funding of $\$1,570.00$ of potential two years of $\$2,990.00$)

Two-year plan for the Conservation Committee:

1. Raise contribution awareness for the Conservation Endowment Fund by challenging all Conservation Committee members to make some regular contribution either anonymously or in someone's name, honor or memory. (The transparency of this challenge is possible now that the committee receives a monthly report on the balance of the CEF.)

The 2020 CEF Monthly balances reported were:

July - \$68,394

Aug - \$68,609

Sep - \$68,889

Oct - \$69,099

Nov - \$69,464

Dec - \$71,479

2. Collaborate with Development and Membership/Marketing Committees to identify special conservation projects to promote in end-of-year donations and to the CEF. This is an on-going process.

3. Track current funded projects in a timely manner to remind recipients of the requirement for their reports for publication in Orchids and/or on the website and for continuation of any second year funding. Keep a record of non-compliance.

4. Expand awareness of grant opportunities to botanic gardens.

5. Review the documents on the AOS website at <https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchid-conservation.aspx> to see which pages can be combined or deleted. The material appears far too wordy and duplicated with materials on Conservation Principle, Policy and Initiatives. This may be easier facilitated with the proposed revisions to the website.

6. Annually review the effectiveness of the Grant Application form and Instructions.

Many thanks to the Board of Trustees for the continued support, trust and contributions to the efforts of the Conservation Committee and the Endowment Fund