De ×*Epicattleyis* commentationes I: valid names under ×*Epicattleya* Rolfe

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After looking on the main orchid articles of the late 19th and early 20th century, it became clear that the nomenclature of the nothogenus formed between *Epidendrum* and *Cattleya*, from a taxonomist perspective, is really messy. Not only because the lack of distinction between taxonomical and horticultural usages at the time, but for the proliferation of informal names, aggravated by the hard-to-delimit genera present in the extremely difficult *Orchidaceae* family. Also, for the undeniable neglect the hybrids receive from traditional taxonomists. It's the aim of this brief article to communicate the correct names published for some few hybrids (to be found nowhere), and exclude the non-valid ones of the nothogenus ×*Epicattleya*.

The history of ×*Epicattleya* begun with *Cattleya guatemalensis* T. Moore, which, according to the author grew with *Cattleya skinerii* and *C. aurantiaca* on the same tree (Rolfe in Gard. Chron. **1889**(1): 491 [1889]). There, he considered the latter as a member of the genus *Epidendrum*, and thus, based on the general aspect of the plant, intermediate between both species, created the concept ×*Epicattleya* and transferred *C. guatemalensis* to the nothogenus. This was an unfortunate deed, as both *C. skinerii* and *C. aurantiaca* proved to be cogeneric, and were transferred to the new genus *Guarianthe* Dressler & W.E. Higgins (Lankesteriana **7**: 37 [2003]). *G.* ×*guatemalensis* was transferred by Higgins (Orchid Digest **68**(1): 39 [2004]).

Anyway, nothogenera don't have types, and ×*Epicattleya* was validly published, indicating the parent genera, and persisting as a well-established concept until now. As such, a lot of names of this species proliferated as hybridists made their labour in France, Germany and Great Britain; and sent their specimens that were published by an anonymous writer, known only as "The Hybridist", who was an alternative author each time. Fortunately, Rolfe and Hurst (1909) identified the authors of descriptions and diagnoses in their "Orchid Stud-Book". Some names were validly proposed, and are here presented, along with their parentage. Names considered invalid under the current code (not in Latin, composed with the unmodified specific epithet of the parents, published without a description or diagnose) are not included.

The literature consulted was made available through the Biodiversity Heritage Library and the BibliOrchidea of the Basilea University. All references were reviewed in order to verify their validity.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Order: *Asparagales* Link

Family: *Orchidaceae* Juss.

Nothogenus: ×*Epicattleya* Rolfe (*Orchidaceae* Juss.: *Asparagales* Link), Gard. Chron., ser. 3 **5**: 491 (1889).

This nothogenus is applied to all the hybrids produced by the crossing of *Epidendrum* L. and *Cattleya* Lindl. Synonyms: ×*Epileya* G. Hansen, The Orchid Hybrids: 203 (1895); ×*Cattleyodendrum* Bailiff, Chron. Orchid. **1**(15): 115 (1898).

Species:

×*E. balarucensis* Denis, In Orchid Rev. **15**: 90 (1907).

Hybrid formula: *Cattleya labiata* Lindl. × *Epidendrum eburneum* Rchb. f. **Validating diagnose:** "*Cattleya labiata* reduced to half its size."

×*E. figaro* Francis Wellesley, In Gard.Chron., ser. 3 **40**: 234 (1906) [as "Epi-Cattleya Figaro"].

Hybrid formula: *Cattleya intermedia* Graham × *Epidendrum falcatum* Lindl. **Validating description:** "[The species is characterized by] having fleshy leaves as in E. falcatum and sin- gular flowers, the narrow lanceolate sepals and petals of which are green ; the distinctly tri- lobed lip white with indistinct rose lines on the side lobes, and a yellow tint on the front."

×*E. lawrencei* Rolfe & Hurst, In Orchid Stud-Book: 267 (1909) [as "Lawrencei"], based on the description available in Orchid Rev. **13**: 115 (1905).

Hybrid formula: *Cattleya gaskelliana* (N.E. Br.) B.S. Williams × *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* Hook. **Validating description:** "[The species is distinguished from others in the nothogenus by] having white flowers tinged with rose."

×*E. orpetii* Thayer, Orchid Rev. **9**: 114 (1901) [as "Orpeti"].

Hybrid formula: *Cattleya amethystoglossa* Linden & Rchb. f. *ex* Warner × *Epidendrum* ×*obrienianum* Rolfe. **Validating description:** "The plant is now about 16 inches high, with a scape about ten inches longer, the habit being that of an *Epidendrum* with the leaves a trifle longer, thicker, and broader, and with no trace of aerial roots. The flower, in size, equals that of *E. radicans*, and is exactly the colour of *Masdevallia lindenii*, the red being eliminated. The lip is fringed and strongly three-lobed, and shows very little modification from the pollen parent. The pollen masses are two in number, and seemingly abortive. The scape has about six flowers and buds sparsely set at the top, and there are three growths, all of which are showing for bloom. *Epidendrums* of this reed-like section are lovers of sun. All that we have in summer here they will stand, but directly the *Cattleyas* are mixed in, the house requires shade, or the latter will show signs of distress."

×*E. nebo* Thayer, Amer. Garden **1902**: 483 (1902) [as "Nebo"].

Hybrid formula: *Cattleya* ×*claesiana* Rolfe × *Epidendrum* ×*obrienianum* Rolfe. This is a dubious species because the author couldn't verify the validity of the original publication.

Excluded Names:

"×*Epicattleya decipiens*" Rolfe & Hurst, "×*Epicattleya lilianae*" Rolfe & Hurst, "×*Epileya matutina*" G. Hansen, "×*Epileya guatemalensis*" (T. Moore) G. Hansen and "×*Cattleyodendrum bellaerense*" Baillif, for lacking any diagnose or description in English or Latin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is indebted with Prof. Dr. Robert Jenny, who facilitated the access to BibliOrchidea and provided great amounts of bibliography.