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VASQUEZIELLA, AN UNKNOWN GENUS

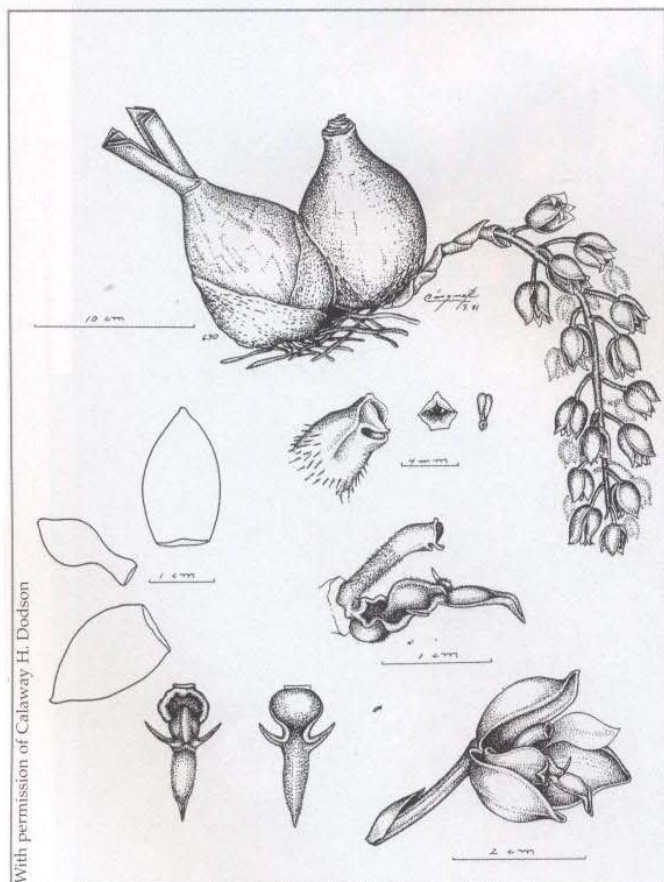
RUDOLF JENNY, PH.D.

THE MONOTYPIC OR MONOSPECIFIC genus *Vasqueziella*, with the single species *Vasqueziella boliviiana* from Bolivia, was described and illustrated by Calaway H. Dodson in 1982 in his "Icones Plantarum Tropicarum." The single plant was collected by Roberto Vasquez in the department Cochabamba (Typus: Bolivia, Cochabamba; Prov. Chapare, km 100 Cochabamba – Villa Tunari, 1800 m, Vasquez 630, holotype SEL, isotype Herb. Vasquezianum) and flowered later in cultivation with Carlos Hayek. The plant was collected from a fallen tree, and the leaves had been cut away. *Vasqueziella* was growing epiphytically and the habitat was described by Dodson as "subtropical montane wet forest." The drawing by Roberto Vasquez from July, 1981 shows the characteristic form of the pseudobulbs very clearly and the distinctive form of the lip. For many years the plant was not collected again and seemed to be lost. Around 2006 some plants of an unknown "*Acineta*" were collected close to Machu Picchu Pueblo at about 2700 m (8858 feet) altitude. The plants grew terrestrially between rocks in the cloud forest. In 2007, a first plant flowered in cultivation in the orchid-collection of the Hotel Inkaterra in Machu

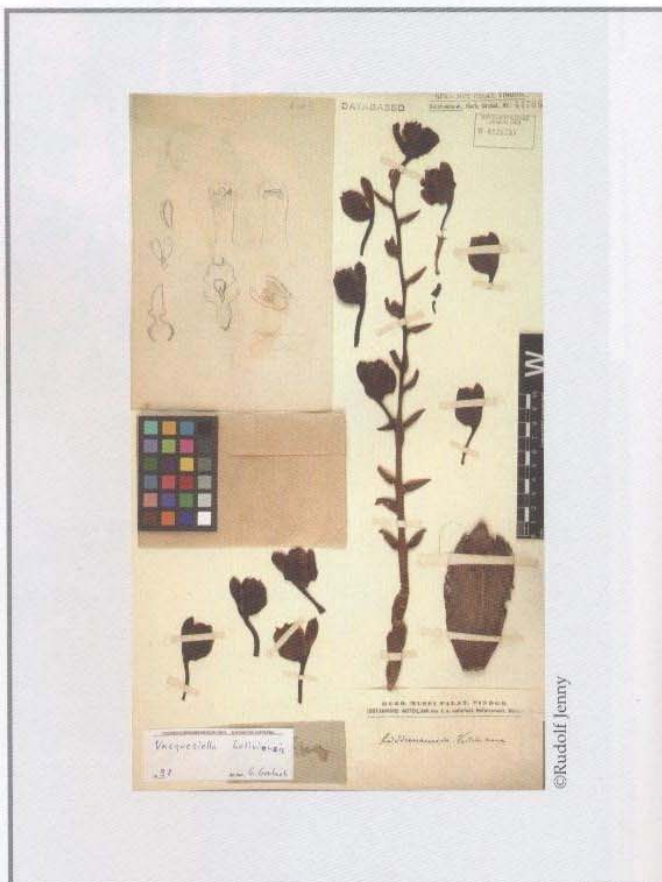
Picchu Pueblo and was identified as *Vasqueziella boliviiana*. In the iconography "Orquideas en Inkaterra at Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel," published in 2007, a set of photos from living material was printed. Most likely, the first photograph from a cultivated plant is from the collection of Tilman Neudecker in Würzburg which was published in 2001 by Karlheinz Senghas in the third edition of Schlechter's "Die Orchideen."

The habitat of the Peruvian plants shows that the culture of the species is difficult; the very few plants surviving in cultivation in Peru seems to confirm that. In spite of the fact that the inflorescences of *Vasqueziella boliviensis* are strictly pendent, the plant grows terrestrially or even as a lithophyte in bright light. Depending on the habitat, the inflorescences vary considerably in length. Until now, the species is not yet included in the official list of Peruvian *Orchidaceae* and so it is not yet possible to obtain. No information about either the composition of the fragrance or the pollinator is available, although flower morphology and the described strong fragrance would suggest that the species is pollinated by *Euglossini*-bees.

The very same species was collected in Peru around



Drawing of *Vasqueziella boliviiana* from *Icones Plantarum Tropicarum*, 1982.

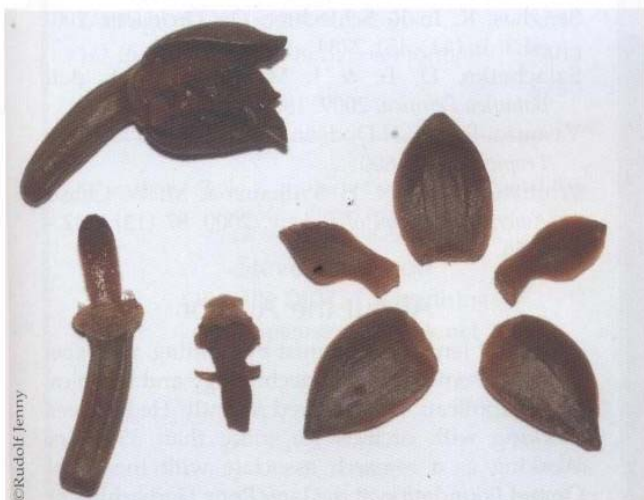


Drawing and dried material of *Lueddemannia veitchii* in the herbarium Reichenbach in Vienna (no. 44766).



Type specimen (in alcohol) of *Vasqueziella boliviana* from the herbarium of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida (SEL).

1870 by an unknown collector of the nursery Veitch in England. Although we do not find any notes in Veitch's "Manual of Orchidaceous Plants," the catalogues of the nursery of Veitch, or in "Hortus Veitchii," we have three—unfortunately not dated—herbarium specimens in the herbarium of Reichenbach fil., Vienna. The numbers 44764, 44765, and 45766 include dried plant material. On number 44766, we find the label of "James Veitch & Sons, Royal Exotic Nursery, King's Road,



Preserved flower of a specimen collected near Machu Picchu Pueblo in Peru.



Vasqueziella boliviana, plant from Bolivia.

Chelsea" with the remark: "no.7, *Acineta* species, Peru, spike hanging through bottom of basket," but no information about the collector or the date are given. On sheet number 44765, we find a drawing of the flower parts by Reichenbach. Although Reichenbach was well aware that he had something new and named it *Lueddemannia veitchii*, for unknown reasons he never published this name and so the species remained unknown and unnamed for about 100 years. Günter

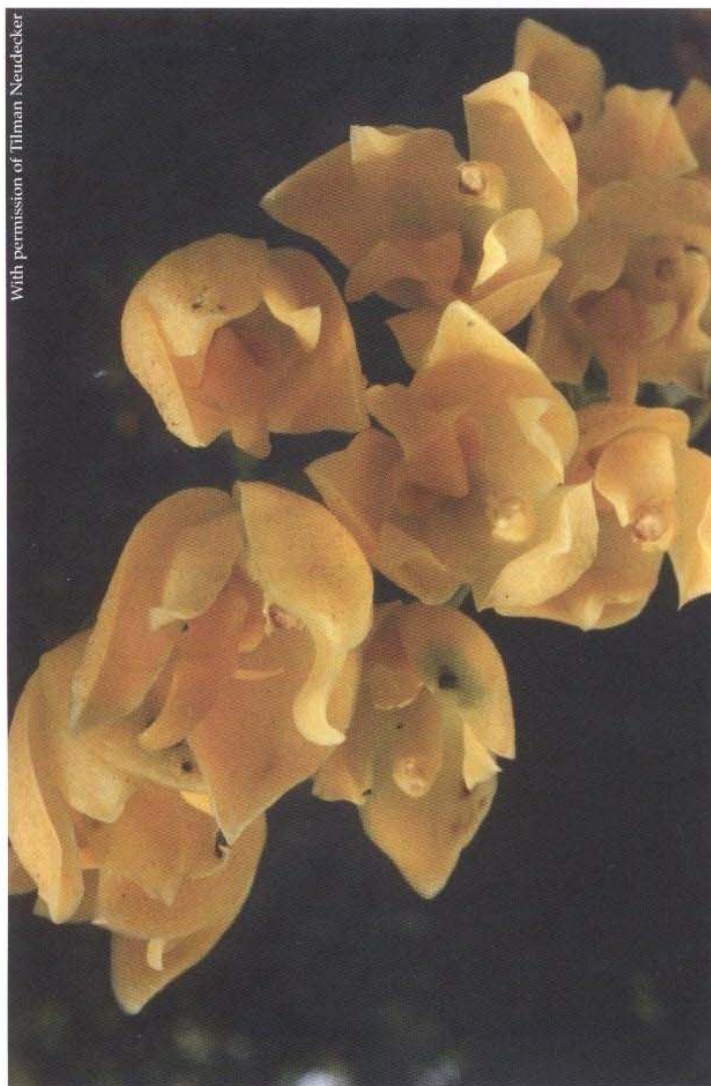


Plant of *Vasqueziella boliviana* in its habitat near Machu Picchu Pueblo in Peru.



With permission of Carmen Soto

Inflorescence and flowers of *Vasqueziella boliviana* in the garden of the Hotel Inkaterra in Machu Picchu Pueblo.



With permission of Tilman Neudecker

Vasqueziella boliviana, plant from Bolivia.

Gerlach named the material in 1998 as *Vasqueziella boliviana* Dodson.

Molecular data confirm very clearly that *Vasqueziella* belongs to the subtribe *Stanhopeinae* and together with the genera *Acineta*, *Lacaena* and *Lueddemannia* forms a small group of closely allied genera. Based on data from a sample from Vasquez in the collection of the Gainesville herbarium (FLAS) in Florida, W. Mark Whitten, Norris H. Williams, and Mark W. Chase defined *Vasqueziella* and *Acineta* as sister genera and mentioned the possibility of including *Vasqueziella* in *Acineta*. Regarding the morphology of the whole plant and the flower of *Vasqueziella*, it would be difficult to justify such a step.*

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About the Author

Rudolf Jenny is a chemist by training, who specializes in environmental technology and technical ozone application. He retired recently. He has been working with orchids for more than 35 years. Working as a research associate with the Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Jany Renz Herbarium, he maintains the world largest orchid literature data-

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