

Nidema ottonis (Orchidaceae): confirmation of its presence in Brazil and first record for the State of Amazonas^a

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Resumo

***Nidema ottonis* (Orchidaceae): confirmação da sua presença no Brasil e primeiro registro para o Amazonas** – *Nidema ottonis*, conhecida no Brasil por apenas uma coleta recente no Acre, está aqui relacionada para o Amazonas a assim confirmada para o Brasil. Descrição e fotografias estão propostas para facilitar a sua identificação.

Abstract

Nidema ottonis, hitherto known in Brazil by an unique and recent collection from the State of Acre, is recorded from the State of Amazonas. Its presence in Brazil is thus confirmed and extended. A morphological description and some pictures are provided in order to ease its field identification.

Résumé

***Nidema ottonis* (Orchidaceae) : confirmation de sa présence au Brésil et premier enregistrement dans l'état Amazonas** – *Nidema ottonis*, connu à ce jour au Brésil par une seule collecte récemment réalisée dans l'état Acre, est enregistré pour l'état Amazonas. Sa présence au Brésil est ainsi confirmée et élargie. Une description morphologique et quelques photographies sont proposées afin de faciliter son identification.

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Introduction

Orchidaceae is the largest family of flowering plants and encompasses about 25,000 species (this figure varies from 20,000 and 35,000 according to various authors), belonging to about 850 genera and occurring in nearly all countries in the world and especially in the tropical area (Chase *et al.* 2003, Dressler 2005). In Brazil 2,459 species in 236 genera are found, and, in Brazilian Amazonia, there are 745 species distributed in 144 genera (Barros *et al.*, 2014).

This region presents various types of vegetation and orchids are present in all of them, each species staying in a specific habitat, such as the Amazonian *campinas*, where 115 species and one natural hybrid (in 64 genera) are growing (Braga, 1982). Various studies dealing with orchids from Brazilian Amazonia have been published, for example Braga (1977), Braga (1982), Cardoso *et al.* (1995), Silva *et al.* (1995), Silveira *et al.* (1995), Atzingen *et al.* (1996), Cruz & Braga (1997), Silva & Silva (2004) and Koch *et al.* (2014). However we can note a lack of information about some genera such as *Nidema* Britton & Millspaugh. It is a genus comprising only two species (IPNI, 2014), of which one, *Nidema ottonis* (Reichenbach f.) Britton & Millspaugh, occurs in Brazil (Barros *et al.*, 2014; SpeciesLink, 2014). This species has been observed from Honduras to Bolivia and the North of South America. In Brazil only one collection was recorded: Acre, Aldeia Indígena de Caxinauá no Acre, Jordão, 2008 (RB 498648).

In this note the first record of *Nidema ottonis* in the state Amazonas is reported, thus confirming and extending the presence of the species in Brazil.

Material and methods

The species was found in June 2014 during a visit to small grassland located on the path to the Nova República district, behind the *Instituto de Ciências Humanas e Letras* (ICHL) of the Federal University of Amazonas (UFAM).

Material was collected and treated in accordance with the usual method (Mori *et al.*, 1989), in order to incorporate it into the herbarium of the *Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia* (INPA).

The species identification was based on literature, especially Silva & Silva (2004). Data about its distribution was extracted from Barros *et al.* (2014) and SpeciesLink (2014).

Results and discussion

Nidema ottonis (Reichenbach f.) Britton & Millspaugh, *Bahama Flora* : 94 (1920). Fig. 1.

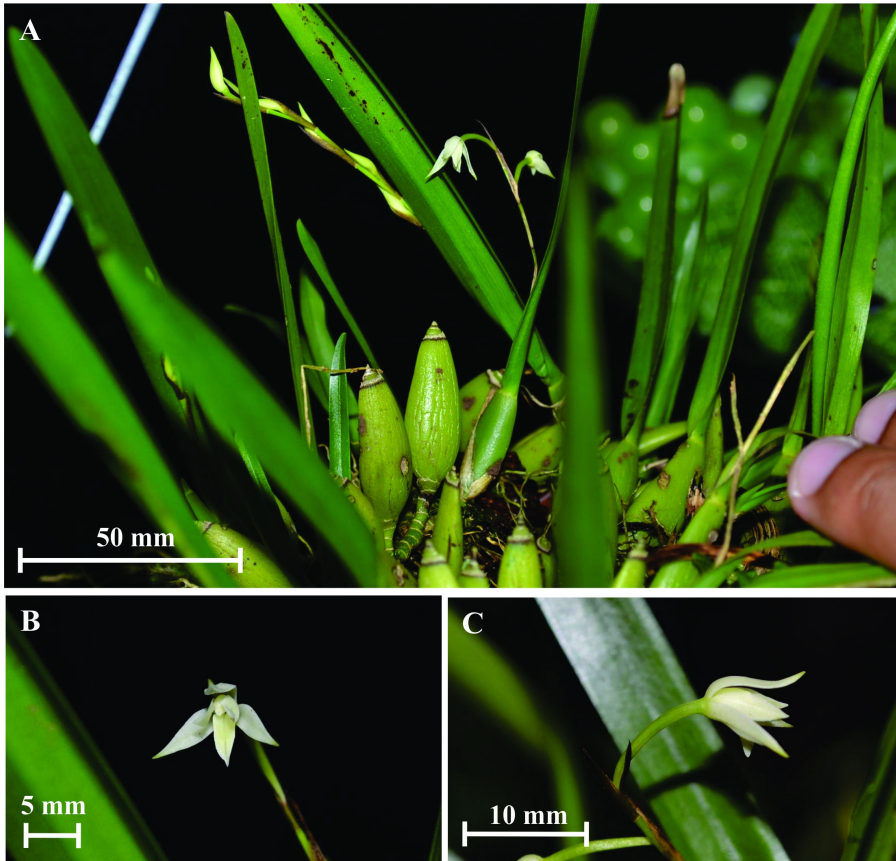


Fig. 1: *Nidema ottonis*

A. Habit of the plant. B. Flower, front view. C. Flower, lateral view

Plant epiphytic and caespitose; roots whitish and thick; rhizome cylindrical, 8-12 mm long; pseudobulb elliptic to ovoid, 20-26 × 6-11 mm, laterally compressed, unifoliate, green; leaf 83-116 × 8-9 mm, narrowly elliptic, conduplicate, green, with an acute apex; inflorescence 58-83 cm long, apical, erected, a raceme of 2-5 flowers; peduncle with bracts ca. 12 mm long, amplexicaul, brownish; floral bracts ca. 10 × 5 mm, lanceolate, brownish, acute at the apex; flowers white; pedicel-ovary ca. 12 mm long;

sepals ca. 8 × 2 mm, lanceolate, acute; petals ca. 5 × 2 mm, elliptic, arched, asymmetrical, acute; lip ca. 6 × 2 mm, elliptic, clawed, acute at the apex, sulcate in the middle; column ca 3,5 mm long, pollinia 4; fruit not seen.

Material examined: Brazil: Amazonas, Manaus, Campus da UFAM, Trilha atrás do ICHL, área de campina, solo arenoso, 06.VI.2014, A. H. Krahl & J. J. Valsko 461 (INPA). The population comprised several individuals.

Global distribution: Honduras to Guyana and Bolivia, West Indies.

Distribution in Brazil: Acre, aldeia indígena de Caxinauá; Amazonas, Manaus (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: Distribution of *Nidema ottonis* in Brazil : the star gives the location of the new record

Notes: several individuals of the species were observed, growing on various *macucus* (local name for *Aldina heterophylla* Spruce ex Bentham) ca. 20-30 m high. The area is quite frequented by researchers. Probably, the species was not recognized because of its similarity with *Prosthechea fragrans* (Swartz) W.E.Higgins, a very common species in Brazilian Amazonia (Silva & Silva, 2004). Consequently, we may presume that it is more widely distributed.

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