

A RE-EVALUATION OF  
THE GENUS *PHYSOSIPHON* (ORCHIDACEAE)

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As presently conceived, the genus *Physosiphon* Lindl. *sensu lato* is based upon a single character: partial union of the sepals, which brings together a number of very unrelated elements. Connation of the sepals, found in varying degrees in most of the other genera of the Pleurothallidinae, fails to circumscribe a definable unit. If constriction of the sepaline tube near the middle were considered an additional criterion, many species currently assumed to belong to *Physosiphon* would be excluded, leaving only a few species in the genus *sensu stricto*, but even this combination of characters occurs in other indisputable genera.

A total of 29 epithets has been attributed to the genus, encompassing about 20 species. Two of them belong in *Masdevallia* Ruiz & Pav., five have been removed to *Phloeophila* Hoehne & Schltr., and the remainder are best treated in the conglomerate genus *Pleurothallis* R. Br. Steudel transferred the type of the genus (*Stelis tubata* Lodd.) to *Pleurothallis* as early as 1841. Therefore, I propose the following new epithet and combinations for the few species not already previously treated in *Pleurothallis*.

***Pleurothallis andina* (Schltr.) Luer, comb. nov.**

*Physosiphon andinus* Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 10:450. 1912, as *andinum*.

***Pleurothallis connata* Luer, nom. nov.**

*Physosiphon obliquipetalus* Ames & Schweinf., Sched. Orchid. 8:12, t.22. 1925, not *Pleurothallis obliquipetala* Acuña & Schweinf., 1938.  
*Stelis obliquipetala* (Ames & Schweinf.) L. O. Wms., Ceiba 5:54. 1956.

***Pleurothallis parahybunensis* (Barb. Rodr.) Luer, comb. nov.**

*Lepanthes parahybunensis* Barb. Rodr., Gen. Spec. Orch. Nov. 2:57. 1882.  
*Physosiphon parahybunensis* (Barb. Rodr.) Cogn., Fl. Bras. 3(4):340. 1896.

***Pleurothallis serrulata* (Barb. Rodr.) Luer, comb. nov.**

*Physosiphon serrulatus* Barb. Rodr., Gen. Spec. Orch. Nov. 2:78. 1882.

Two Brazilian species are so distinct with their commonly paired, Sarracenia-like sepaline tubes, that they deserve generic recognition.

***Sarracenella* Luer, nom. nov.**

*Physosiphon* "tribus" *Geocalpa* Krzl., Orchis 2:18. 1909. nomen.  
*Geocalpa* (Krzl.) Brieg., Die Orchidee 440. 1975. nom. illeg.

Herbae parvae rhizomate repenti, foliis crassis carnosis, floribus brevipedunculatis saepe binis, tubo sepalorum plus minusve erecto profunde utriculato cucullato, petalis labello columnaue minutis, pollinis duobus.

TYPE: *Physosiphon pubescens* Barb. Rodr.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the similarity of the sepaline tube to the tube of the pitcher-plant genus *Sarracenia* L.

***Sarracenella asaroides* (Krzl.) Luer, comb. nov.**

*Physosiphon asaroides* Krzl., Orchis 2:16. 1909.  
*Phloeophila asaroides* (Krzl.) Garay, Orquideologia 9: 117. 1974.  
*Geocalpa asaroides* (Krzl.) Brieg., Die Orchidee 440. 1975.

***Sarracenella pubescens* (Barb. Rodr.) Luer, comb. nov.**

*Physosiphon pubescens* Barb. Rodr., Gen. Spec. Orchid. Nov. 1: 27. 1877.  
*Phloeophila pubescens* (Barb. Rodr.) Garay, Orquideologia 9: 118. 1974.  
*Geocalpa pubescens* (Barb. Rodr.) Brieg., Die Orchidee 440. 1975.