
A New Species of *Encholirium* (Bromeliaceae) from Minas Gerais, Brazil

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Encholirium* from the campos rupestres of Minas Gerais, Brazil, is described and illustrated. *Encholirium reflexum* is a distinctive taxon characterized by reflexed leaves, imbricate petals and sepals, as well as style and stamens included in the corolla tube. The most closely related species is *E. pedicellatum* (Mez) Rauh, which can be distinguished by its higher number of leaves per rosette, flowers with short pedicels, and suborbicular and imbricate sepals.

RESUMO. Uma nova espécie de *Encholirium* procedente dos campos rupestres de Minas Gerais, Brasil é descrita e ilustrada. *Encholirium reflexum* caracteriza-se por apresentar folhas reflexas, pétalas e sépalas imbricadas, estames e estilete inclusos no tubo da corola. Difere de *E. pedicellatum* (Mez) Rauh por possuir um número muito maior de folhas por roseta, pelas flores com pedicelos reduzidos e sépalas suborbiculares e imbricadas.

Key words: Brazil, Bromeliaceae, *Encholirium*, Pitcairnioideae.

The genus *Encholirium* Martius ex Schultes & Schultes f. belongs to the bromelid subfamily Pitcairnioideae and includes ca. 31 species (Smith & Read, 1989). It is restricted to southeast, northeast, and central Brazil, where it forms large populations on rock outcrops. The genus is widely spread in the Brazilian campos rupestres of Minas Gerais. *Encholirium* is closely related to *Dyckia* Schultes & Schultes f., from which it differs by the terminal scape and free stamens (Forzza & Wanderley, 1998).

Encholirium reflexum Forzza & Wanderley, sp. nov. TYPE: Brazil. Minas Gerais: Município de Rio Pardo de Minas, Serra do Deus Me Livre, 15°58'S, 42°49'W, May 1998 (fl), R. C. Forzza, J. R. Pirani, A. C. Marcato, M. C. Assis & P. H. Labiak 800 (holotype, SPF; isotypes, BHC, US).

Ab omnibus speciebus generis foliis reflexis, dense lepidotis, cinereis, bracteis superis scapi brevioribus quam internodis, inflorescentia simplici et laxa, bractis floralibus brevioribus quam floribus, pedicellis brevibus, 3–4 mm longis, sepalis suborbicularibus, imbricatis, petalis oblongo-orbicularibus, imbricatis, staminibus inclusis difert.

Plants 0.6–1.0 m long, saxicolous. Rhizomes short. Rosettes 15–30 cm diam. Leaves reflexed; sheaths 4.2–6.0 × 1.8–2.5 cm, margin entire; leaf blades 13–24 × 1.5–2.7 cm, lanceolate, grayish, rarely reddish, densely lepidote, margins spinose; spines 4–7 mm long, spreading or retrorse. Scape 45–62 cm long, 0.8–1.0 cm diam., terminal, green, erect, glabrous. Lower scape bracts exceeding or same length as the internodes, 6–10 cm long, erect; the upper scape bracts shorter than the internodes, 1.7–2.6 cm long, lanceolate, stramineous, apex acute to attenuate, entire, glabrous, clasping the scape. Inflorescence 22–33 cm long, raceme, simple, laxly few-flowered, 32–75 flowers; rachis green, glabrous. Pedicels 3–4 mm long, green, cylindrical, glabrous. Floral bracts shorter than the flowers, 1.1–1.5 × 0.4–0.5 cm, castaneous, lanceolate, apex attenuate, margin entire, glabrous. Flowers spreading; sepals 5–7 × 5–7 mm, green, imbricate, symmetric, suborbicular, apex rounded or inconspicuously pointed, glabrous; petals 7–9 × 7.0–9 mm, green, imbricate, oblong-orbicular, apex rounded, glabrous; stamens 1.0–1.1 cm long, free, included, or with anthers only slightly exerted; anthers connivent, apiculate; ovary 5–6 mm long, green; style ca. 4.0 mm long, green, included. Capsules 1.1–1.8 cm long, perianth persistent. Seeds ca. 3 mm long, alate.

Encholirium reflexum presents a peculiar habit, with reflexed leaves (Fig. 1A) that are completely covered by scales, giving the blade an intense grayish color. The flowers are distinctive, with suborbicular sepals, imbricate petals, and nearly included stamens (Fig. 1B).

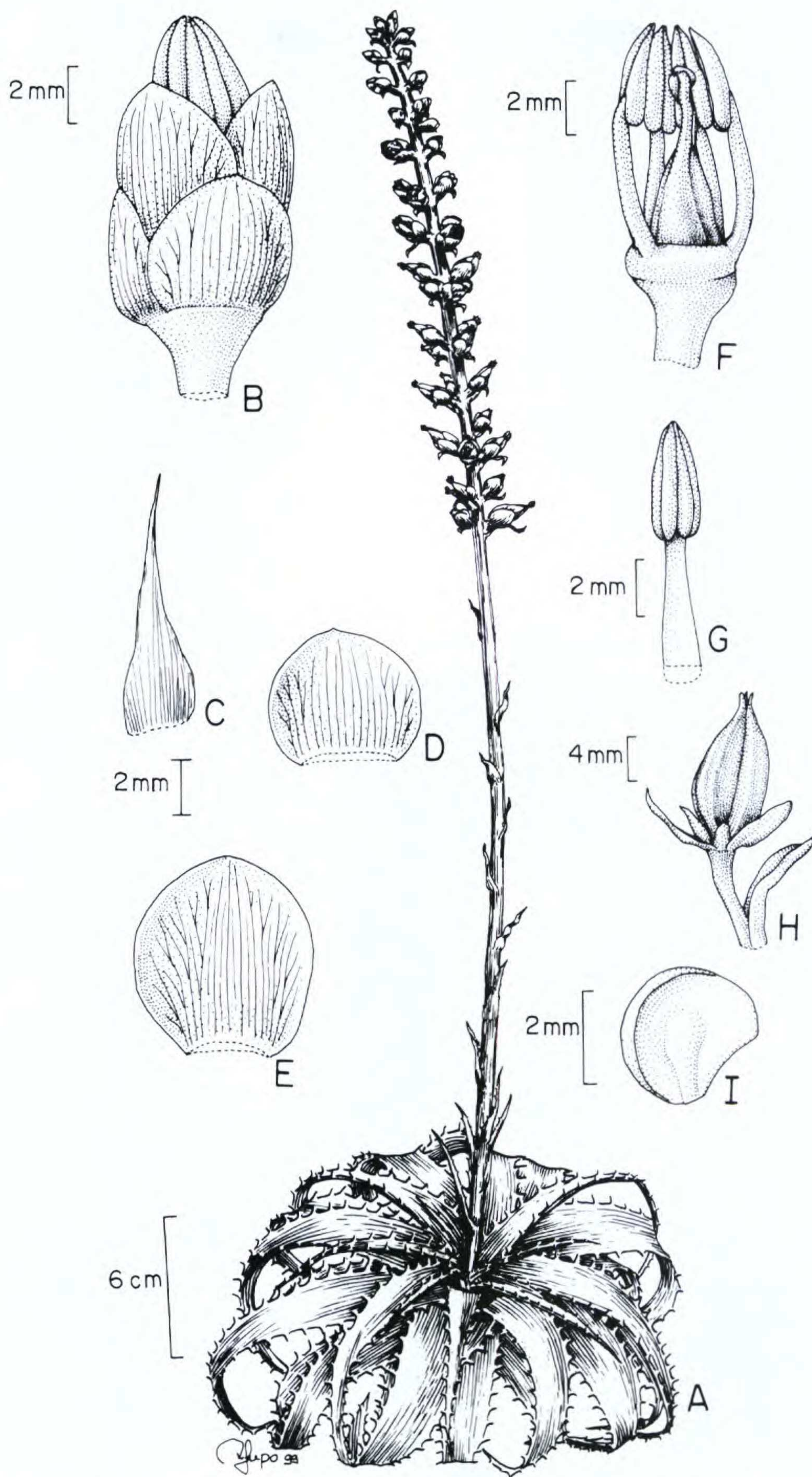


Figure 1. *Encholirium reflexum* Forzza & Wanderley. —A. Habit. —B. Flower. —C. Floral bract. —D. Sepal. —E. Petal. —F. Stamens and gynoecium. —G. Stamen. —H. Capsule. —I. Seed. Drawings based on R. C. Forzza et al. 800 (A–G) and R. C. Forzza et al. 538 (H, I).

According to Rauh (1987), the presence of imbricate petals and relatively long pedicels, segregate a "longipedicellatum" group within *Encholirium*. This group is made up of five species, all of

which are restricted to the campos rupestres vegetation in Minas Gerais, Brazil, and are short when compared to the other species of the genus (Rauh, 1987). However, *E. vogelii* Rauh is over 1.5 m tall,

and *E. reflexum* has short pedicels (Fig. 1B), so apparently plant height and pedicel size vary within this group. On the other hand, the combination of imbricate petals as well as stamens and stigma included within the corolla are constant characters for the “*longipedicellatum*” group, differing from other *Encholirium* species, which have non-imbricate petals and exerted stamens.

Paratypes. BRAZIL. **Minas Gerais:** Município de Diamantina, Estrada Diamantina–Milho Verde, Dec. 1997 (fr), R. C. Forzza, P. T. Sano, N. Roque, A. C. Marcato & L. R. Lima 538 (MO, SPF); 15 km SE de Diamantina, caminho a Milho Verde, ca. 18°20'S, 43°33'W, Feb. 1991 (fr), M. M. Arbo, N. L. Menezes, A. Schinini & M. T. V. A. Campos 5145 (CTES, SPF, US).

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