

Rhyncholaelia Schlechter 1918

SUBFAMILY Epidendroideae, TRIBE Epidendreae, SUBTRIBE Laeliinae.

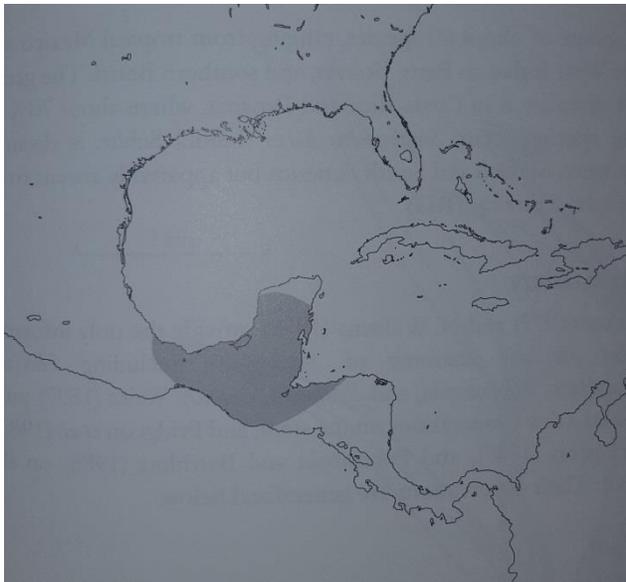
TYPE SPECIES: *Rhyncholaelia glauca* [Lindley]Schlechter 1918

SYNONYMS: *Brasavola* Lindley, *Laelia* Ames and Correll

ETYMOLOGY: Schlechter coined the generic name *Rhyncholaelia* from the Greek word rhynchos (snout) and the genus name Laelia, undoubtedly a reference to the seed capsule, which Schlechter considered a main point in his generic separation.

DESCRIPTION: Epiphytic caespitose herbs. Stem thickened and clavate. Leaf one, conduplicate, thick and fleshy, glaucous. Inflorescence a single sub-sessile flower, from a papery sheath. Flower resupinate, greenish, white, fragrant. Sepals free, similar. Petals broader than sepals, elliptical. Labellum funnel-shaped, enfolding the column, with a broad, spreading limb, the limb fimbriate in *R. digbyana* Schltr. Column clavate; anther terminal, incumbent, pollinia eight, laterally flattened, with flattened caudicles, sometimes with rudimentary ‘pollinia’ on the caudicles between the larger pollinia Stigma concave, rostellum transverse. Ovary and capsule beaked.³

DISTRIBUTION: Two species from Mexico to Nicaragua.³ *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*: Plants are



found in the southeastern Mexican states of Yucatan and Quintana Roo with distribution extending through the Caribbean-facing lowlands of Belize into Honduras. They grow on stunted trees in hot, humid lowlands near sea level. There have been some reports of occurrences in Nicaragua and Guatemala, but we have been unable to locate any details relating to collections or habitat location in these areas. *Rhyncholaelia glauca*: Mexico, southward to Nicaragua through Guatemala,

and Honduras. Plants were first found near Xalapa (Jalapa), Mexico and later not far from

Veracruz. *Rhyncholaelia glauca* occurs over a wide area, but it is not common in any of its habitats. Plants are often grow either on the surface of the ground or in trees in dry, open mountain forests at 3950-4920 ft. (1200-1500 m). However, they occasionally grow at lower elevations in dense tropical forests. -- Source: Charles Baker⁸

CULTIVATION: *Rhyncholaelias* are easily grown in similar conditions to *Cattleya*, in pots or baskets, in a coarse, free draining compost, in bright light with good air movement. They should be kept much drier in the resting season.⁴

References

¹ www.orchidspecies.com

² **Aldridge, Peggy. 2008.** *An Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera*. Selby Botanical Garden Press.

³ **Chase MW. 2006.** Tribe Epidendreae. In: Pridgeon AM, Cribb PJ, Chase MW, Rasmussen F, eds. *Genera Orchidacearum, Vol. 4*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

⁴ **la Croix, Isobyl. 2008.** *The New Encyclopedia of Orchids*. Timber Press

⁵ **Meisel, Kaufmann, Pupulin 2014.** *Orchids of Tropical America* .Cornel University Press

⁶ **Withner, Carl L. 1998.** *The Cattleyas and Their Relatives: Volume V*. Timber Press

⁷ www.hamlinorchids.com

⁸ OrchidWiz.Database X4.1