Prosthechea Knowles & Westc. (1838)

[pros-thee-KEY-a]

The American Orchid Society notes: this is the newly resurrected genus name for the group of orchids that have been classified in the past with epidendrums, encyclias, anacheiliums and many others. This group has always been problematic in that the physical characteristics seem not to fit into nice discrete groups allowing easy classification. In 1997, Higgins placed many plants into this genus. This group of plants has a rhizome with pseudobulbs that are at least somewhat flattened. The inflorescence has a spathe at the base. The lip is attached or adnate to the column only part way and the column has three teeth at the apex. The seed capsule is three-angled or three-winged. Generally speaking, this group consists of two groups of plants. The first group is the cockleshell group, known for the non-resupinate (flowers up side down, lip uppermost.) such as Prosthechea (synonym Encyclia) *cochleata*. The second group includes the Mexican and Central American types such as Prosthechea (synonym Encyclia) *prismatocarpa* with the same plant type but resupinate flowers and bright colors.

These plants are generally very fragrant and the flowers last a long time, sometimes months. They bloom usually once a year but as the flowers last so long they seem in bloom a lot. Prosthechea *cochleata* blooms on a sequential inflorescence with one bloom after the other fades so it will stay in bloom for a year to 18 months on one inflorescence and seems to always be in bloom. The blooms are very resistant to pests, particularly slugs.

Type species:

**Distribution**



**Native to:**

Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil North, Brazil Northeast, Brazil South, Brazil Southeast, Brazil West-Central, Cayman Is., Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Florida, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Leeward Is., Mexico Central, Mexico Gulf, Mexico Northeast, Mexico Northwest, Mexico Southeast, Mexico Southwest, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela, Venezuelan Antilles, Windward Islands.

**Homotypic Synonyms**

Epithecia Knowles & Westc. in Fl. Cab. 2: 167 (1838), nom. illeg.

**Heterotypic Synonyms**

Anacheilium Hoffmanns. in Linnaea 16(Litt.): 229 (1842)

Epicladium Small in Fl. Miami: 56 (1913)

Euchile (Dressler & G. E. Pollard) Withner in Cattleyas & Relatives 5: 137 (1998)

Hormidium Lindl. ex Heynh. in Nom. Bot. Hort.: 880 (1841)

Panarica Withner & P. A. Harding in Cattleyas & Relatives: Debatable Epidendrums: 207 (2004)

Pollardia Withner & P. A. Harding in Cattleyas & Relatives: Debatable Epidendrums: 217 (2004)

Pseudencyclia Chiron & V. P. Castro in Richardiana 4: 31 (2003)

**Accepted Species**

Includes 124 Accepted Species

Prosthechea *abbreviata* (Schltr.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *aemula* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *alagoensis* (Pabst) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *allemanii* (Barb.Rodr.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *allemanoides* (Hoehne) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *aloisii* (Schltr.) Dodson & Hágsater

Prosthechea *arminii* (Rchb.f.) Withner & P. A. Harding

Prosthechea *baculus* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *barbozae* Pupulin

Prosthechea *bennettii* (Christenson) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *bicamerata* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *bohnkiana* V. P. Castro & G. F. Carr

Prosthechea *boothiana* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *borsiana* (Campacci) Van den Berg

Prosthechea *brachiata* (A. Rich. & Galeotti) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *brachychila* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *brassavolae* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *bueraremensis* (Campacci) Van den Berg

Prosthechea *bulbosa* (Vell.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *caetensis* (Bicalho) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *calamaria* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *campos-portoi* (Pabst) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *campylostalix* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *carrii* V. P. Castro & Campacci

Prosthechea *chacaoensis* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *chimborazoensis* (Schltr.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea × *chixoyensis* E. Mó & Cetzal

Prosthechea *chondylobulbon* (A. Rich. & Galeotti) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *christensonii* (Harding) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *christyana* (Rchb.f.) Garay & Withner

Prosthechea *citrina* (Lex.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *cochleata* (L.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *concolor* (Lex.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *crassilabia* (Poepp. & Endl.) Carnevali & I. Ramírez

Prosthechea *cretacea* (Dressler & G. E. Pollard) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *ebanii* Chiron & V. P. Castro

Prosthechea *elisae* Chiron & V. P. Castro

Prosthechea *faresiana* (Bicalho) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *farfanii* Christenson

Prosthechea *fausta* (Rchb.f. ex Cogn.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *favoris* (Rchb.f.) Salazar & Soto Arenas

Prosthechea *fortunae* (Dressler) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *fragrans* (Sw.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *fuertesii* (Cogn.) Christenson

Prosthechea *garciana* (Garay & Dunst.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *ghiesbreghtiana* (A. Rich. & Galeotti) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *gilbertoi* (Garay) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *glauca* Knowles & Westc.

Prosthechea *glumacea* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *grammatoglossa* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *greenwoodiana* (Aguirre-Olav.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *guttata* (Schltr.) Christenson

Prosthechea *hajekii* D. E. Benn. & Christenson

Prosthechea *hartwegii* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *hastata* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea × *intermedia* (Campacci) J. M. H. Shaw

Prosthechea *ionocentra* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *ionophlebia* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *itabirinhensis* (Campacci) J. M. H. Shaw

Prosthechea *jauana* (Carnevali & I. Ramírez) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *joaquingarciana* Pupulin

Prosthechea *karwinskii* (Mart.) J. M. H. Shaw

Prosthechea *kautskyi* (Pabst) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *lambda* (Linden & Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *lindenii* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *livida* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *macrothyrsodes* (Rchb.f.) Christenson

Prosthechea *madrensis* (Schltr.) Karremans

Prosthechea *magnispatha* (Ames, F. T. Hubb. & C. Schweinf.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *marciliana* (Campacci) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *mariae* (Ames) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *megahybos* (Schltr.) Dodson & Hágsater

Prosthechea *mejia* (Withner & P. A. Harding) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *michuacana* (Lex.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *micropus* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *moojenii* (Pabst) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *mulasii* Soto Arenas & L. Cerv.

Prosthechea *neglecta* Pupulin

Prosthechea *neurosa* (Ames) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *obpiribulbon* (Hágsater) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *ochracea* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *ortizii* (Dressler) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *pachysepala* (Klotzsch) Chiron & V. P. Castro

Prosthechea *pamplonensis* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *panthera* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *papilio* (Vell.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *pastoris* (Lex.) Espejo & López-Ferr.

Prosthechea *pitengoensis* (T. V. S. Campacci & Laitano) J. M. H. Shaw

Prosthechea *pringlei* (Rolfe) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *prismatocarpa* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *pseudopygmaea* (Finet) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *pterocarpa* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *pulcherrima* (Klotzsch) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *pulchra* Dodson & W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *punctulata* (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar

Prosthechea *pygmaea* (Hook.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *racemifera* (Dressler) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *radiata* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *regentii* V. P. Castro & Chiron

Prosthechea *regnelliana* (Hoehne & Schltr.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *rhynchophora* (A.Rich. & Galeotti) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *roraimensis* V. P. Castro & Campacci

Prosthechea *sceptra* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *schunkiana* (Campacci & P. A. Harding) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *semiaperta* (Hágsater) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *serpentilingua* Withner & D. G. Hunt

Prosthechea *sessiliflora* (Edwall) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *silvana* Cath. & V. P. Castro

Prosthechea *sima* (Dressler) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *spondiada* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *squalida* (Lex.) Soto Arenas & Salazar

Prosthechea *suzanensis* (Hoehne) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *tardiflora* Mora-Ret. ex Pupulin

Prosthechea *terassaniana* (Campacci & P. A. Harding) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *tigrina* (Linden ex Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *tinukiana* Bogarín & Karremans

Prosthechea *trulla* (Rchb.f.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *vagans* (Ames) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *varicosa* (Bateman ex Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *vasquezii* Christenson

Prosthechea *venezuelana* (Schltr.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *vespa* (Vell.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *villae-rosae* P. Ortiz

Prosthechea *vita* (D. G. Hunt, Withner & P. A. Harding) J. M. H. Shaw

Prosthechea *vitellina* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea *widgrenii* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins

Prosthechea Species Awards

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | CBR | TOTAL |
| *abbreviate* | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 6 |
| *aemula* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *allemanii* | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| *adenocarpa* | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 |
| *baculus* | - | 2 | - | - | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | 7 |
| *bicamerata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| *boothiana* | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 5 |
| *brassavolae* | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 8 |
| *bueraremensis* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| *bulbosa* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *campylostalix* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| *chacaoensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |
| *chimborazoensis* | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 5 |
| *christii, ~* *crassilabia* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| ***\*citrina*** | **9** | **24** | **12** | **-** | **2** | **5** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **52** |
| *cochleata* | 1 | 14 | 12 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 36 |
| *confuse, ~bachus* | - | 2 | - | - | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | 7 |
| *crassilabia* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| *diurna* | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| *elisae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *fausta* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *fragrans* | - | 4 | - | - | 1 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 14 |
| *fusca, ~hartwegii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *garciana* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| *ghiesbreghtiana* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| *glauca* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 3 |
| *grammatoglossa* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *guttata* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| *hartwegii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *inversa, ~bulbosa* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *ionocentra* | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| *ionophlebia* | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| *lancifolia, ~trulla* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *latro, ~bulbosa* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *leopardine, ~crassilabia* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 |

Prosthechea Species Awards

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | CBR | TOTAL |
| *livida* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| *longipes, ~crassilabia* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2  |
| *maculosa, ~guttata* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| *magnispatha* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| *mariae* | - | 17 | 10 | - | - | 6 | 1 | - | - | - | 34 |
| *mejia* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *michuacana* | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 5 |
| *micropus* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *obpiribulbon* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *ochracea* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| *panthera* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | 6 |
| *papilio* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *pastoris* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *pipio, ~calamaria* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *pringlei* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *prismatocarpa* | 2 | 5 | 4 | - | 1 | 8 | - | - | - | - | 20 |
| *pterocarpan* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *pulchra* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *punctifera, ~calamaria* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| ***\*radiata*** | **-** | **8** | **11** | **-** | **-** | **20** | **1** | **1** | **-** | **-** | **41** |
| *rhynchophora* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *sceptra* | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| *semiaperta* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| *sima* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| *spondiada* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *tripunctata, ~calamaria* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *trulla* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *varicosa* | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| *venezuelana* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| *venosa, ~pastoris* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *vespa* | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 7 |
| *vinacea, ~pulchra* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *vita* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *vitellina* | - | 11 | 6 | - | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 23 |
| *widgrenii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |

**Prosthechea Species Offspring and Progeny**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Species  | F1 Offspring | Progency |
| *abbreviate* | 1 | 1 |
| *aemula* | 1 | 1 |
| *allemanii* | 0 | 0 |
| *baculus* | 8 | 9 |
| *bicamerata* | 0 | 0 |
| *boothiana* | 2 | 2 |
| *brassavolae* | 4 | 4 |
| *bueraremensis* | 0 | 0 |
| *bulbosa* | 0 | 0 |
| *calamaria* | 4 | 7 |

**Prosthechea Species Offspring and Progeny**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Species | F1 Offspring | Progeny |
| *campylostalix* | 2 | 2 |
| *chacaoensis* | 1 | 1 |
| *chimborazoensis* | 1 | 1 |
| *christii, ~* *crassilabia* | 5 | 5 |
| ***\*citrina*** | **29** | **33** |
| ***\*cochleata*** | **41** | **45** |
| *confuse, ~bachus* | 8 | 9 |
| *crassilabia* | 5 | 5 |
| *diurna* | 12 | 52 |
| *elisae* | 0 | 0 |
| *fausta* | 0 | 0 |
| *fragrans* | 13 | 24 |
| *fusca, ~hartwegii* | 0 | 0 |
| *garciana* | 4 | 4 |
| *ghiesbreghtiana* | 1 | 1 |
| *glauca* | 0 | 0 |
| *grammatoglossa* | 0 | 0 |
| *grisebachiana* | 3 | 3 |
| *guttata* | 0 | 0 |
| *hartwegii* | 0 | 0 |
| *inversa, ~bulbosa* | 0 | 0 |
| *ionocentra* | 2 | 2 |
| *ionophlebia* | 4 | 4 |
| *lancifolia, ~trulla* | 5 | 7 |
| *latro, ~bulbosa* | 0 | 0 |
| *leopardine, ~crassilabia* | 5 | 5 |
| *livida* | 2 | 2 |
| *longipes, ~crassilabia* | 5 | 5 |
| *maculosa, ~guttata* | 0 | 0 |
| *magnispatha* | 0 | 0 |
| ***\*mariae*** | **114** | **218** |
| *mejia* | 0 | 0 |
| *michuacana* | 2 | 3 |
| *micropus* | 0 | 0 |
| *obpiribulbon* | 0 | 0 |
| *ochracea* | 0 | 0 |
| *panthera* | 0 | 0 |
| *papilio* | 0 | 0 |
| *pastoris* | 0 | 0 |
| *pipio, ~calamaria* | 4 | 7 |
| *pringlei* | 0 | 0 |
| *prismatocarpa* | 30 | 32 |
| *pterocarpan* | 2 | 2 |
| *pulchra* | 0 | 0 |
| *punctifera, ~calamaria* | 4 | 7 |
| *radiata* | 32 | 40 |
| *rhynchophora* | 0 | 0 |
| *sceptra* | 0 | 0 |
| *semiaperta* | 1 | 2 |
| *sima* | 0 | 0 |

**Prosthechea Species Offspring and Progeny**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Species | F1 Offspring | Progeny |
| *spondiada* | 0 | 0 |
| *tripunctata, ~calamaria* | 4 | 7 |
| *trulla* | 5 | 7 |
| *varicosa* | 0 | 0 |
| *venezuelana* | 0 | 0 |
| *venosa, ~pastoris* | 0 | 0 |
| *vespa* | 1 | 1 |
| *vinacea, ~pulchra* | 0 | 0 |
| *vita* | 0 | 0 |
| ***\*vitellina*** | **65** | **84** |
| *widgrenii* | 0 | 0 |

Prosthechea building blocks include:

1. Prosthechea *citria* – based on fifty-two American Orchid Society awards.

2. Prosthechea *radiata* – based on forty-one American Orchid Society awards.

3. Prosthechea *maria* – based on one hundred fourteen F1 offspring and two hundred eighteen progeny.

4. Prosthechea *vitellina* – based on sixty-five F1 offspring and eighty-four progeny.

The flowers of Prosthechea species are unusual in that though the labellum is usually below the column in the orchids, in the members of Prosthechea the labellum forms a "hood" over the column. This makes the flower effectively look upside down, or non-resupinate. From reviewing photographs in OrchidWiz, hybrids of Prosthechea can present as resupinate or non-resupinate, even within the same hybrid. Sepals and petals of Prosthechea hybrids are stellate. Depending on parentage of Prosthechea hybrids have lips that are striped at some level.

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