

JAMES LEE PETERS (1889-1952)

EL 19 DE ABRIL DE 1952, falleció en Cambridge, estado de Massachusetts, el Sr. James L. Peters, uno de los ornitólogos más eminentes de los Estados Unidos. El se graduó en la Universidad de Harvard en 1912, y todo el resto de su vida fué asociado con el Museo de Zoología Comparativa de esa Universidad.

Publicó muchos estudios de la avifauna de las Américas y de otras partes. En la primera parte del año 1928, estuvo por unas semanas en la costa norte de Honduras, donde hizo una gran colección de las aves, en las regiones de la Estación Experimental de Lancetilla y de El Progreso. Una lista de las aves colectadas u observadas por él, fué publicada en octubre de 1929, en el *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology*, tomo 69, N° 12, pgs. 397-478.—*P. C. Standley*.

ENCYCLIA, A SEGREGATE FROM EPIDENDRUM?

LOUIS O. WILLIAMS

DR. F. C. HOEHNE has recently published¹ what perhaps may be called a partial check list of the species of the genus *Encyclia* of Hooker. The publication of the list brings forth again a plea for the separation of *Encyclia* from *Epidendrum*. The two groups of plants have been variously treated by orchid specialists. Dr. R. Schlechter, whom Dr. Hoehne mentions, and Dr. Hoehne himself are the last of the orchidologists to maintain *Encyclia* as a separate genus. Hooker, who originally published the genus, apparently abandoned it. Lindley, who was perhaps the greatest of the orchidologists, saw the folly of trying to maintain *Encyclia* and in the *Folia Orchidaceae* gave his reasons, which I believe are still valid. Bentham and Hooker in the *Genera Plantarum* (Bentham did the *Orchidaceae*) did not maintain *Encyclia*. Ames, Hubbard and Schweinfurth who among the students of the orchids have studied *Epidendrum* in

¹ Hoehne, F. C.—Lista preliminar das espécies do gênero *Encyclia* Hooker para controle. Arquivos de Botânica do Estado de S. Paulo, n.s. 2: 147-156. 1952.

greatest detail, did not see fit to separate the kinds that have sometimes been called Encyclia. They did not consider the matter of enough importance to mention it specifically in their "*The Genus Epidendrum in the United States and Middle America*". Even Schlechter was not consistent in the use of Encyclia. Dr. A. Cogniaux who did the orchids for Martius' *Flora Brasiliensis* did not use Encyclia.

Dr. Hoehne's plea for the separation of the two types of Epidendrum seem to me to be really a plea for the recognition of the fact that botanists often have different opinion of what constitutes a taxon. I am quite willing to admit that my concept of the genera in the Orchidaceae is more conservative than is Dr. Hoehne's, — and that he may be more nearly correct than I.

Epidendrum has had a bad time of it from botanists during the last two centuries. It must have at least twenty five generic synonyms, perhaps the most important of which is Encyclia. (J. K. Small, in his *Manual of the Southeastern Flora, 1933*, used six of these segregate genera to contain the ten species of Epidendrum which grow within the range of that manual, — but Small was no orchidologist).

Dr. Hoehne translates Dr. R. Schlechter's reason, from *Die Orchideen*, for maintaining Encyclia separate from Epidendrum. He adds some observations of his own on which I have no comment, at this time.

The genus Epidendrum, in the broad sense, is very large. To separate off one segment of it without a careful study of the several components of the genus is to work in the dark. Dr. Hoehne does not give a generic description of that component of Epidendrum which he would maintain separate as Encyclia. Such a description can not be written without a careful study of the genus as a whole, and I believe that such a study would indicate the impossibility of writing a description. Even if Encyclia were separated, then what is to be done with the several other intergrading species groups now kept in Epidendrum that are quite as distinct as is Encyclia? What about the intergrading groups of species within Encyclia as Dr. Hoehne *apparently* understands it?

There are several nomenclatorial changes in the paper under discussion which affect nomenclature in the recently completed "*Orchidaceae of Mexico*". The new combinations proposed by Dr. Hoehne, affecting Mexican species, are given

below. These are followed by the name of the species to which they are to be referred.

Encyclia bractescens (Lindl.) Hoehne is a synonym of EPIDENDRUM BRACDESCENS Lindl. *Encyclia Deamii* (Schltr.) Hoehne is a synonym of EPIDENDRUM CONDYLOCHILUM Lehm. & Kränzl. *Encyclia Diguetii* (Ames) Hoehne is a synonym of EPIDENDRUM DIQUETH Ames. *Encyclia ichthyophyllum* (Ames) Hoehne is a synonym of EPIDENDRUM VIRGATUM Lindl. *Encyclia maculosa* (AHS.) Hoehne is a synonym of EPIDENDRUM MACULOSUM AHS. *Encyclia Mariae* (Ames) Hoehne is a synonym of EPIDENDRUM MARIAE Ames. There are five new varietal combinations under *Encyclia oncidioides* all of which may be referred to a similar combination under EPIDENDRUM ONCIDIROIDES.