

New infragenera in *Cypella* (Iridaceae: Tigridieae)Leonardo Paz Deble^{1, 2} **Abstract.** [New infragenera in *Cypella* (Iridaceae: Tigridieae)]

Based on morphological and anatomical characteristics, a new infrageneric classification is proposed for *Cypella* Herbert. The thirty valid species are organized into the subgenera *Cypella* and *Naïs* (Ravenna) Deble. Furthermore, five sections are recognized: *Cypella*, *Armosae* Deble, *Naïs* Ravenna, *Fasciculatae* Deble, and *Magnificae* Deble, the first two belong to the subgenus *Cypella*, and the others to *Naïs*. Seven species listed as valid in POWO and four infragenera are excluded from *Cypella* with the valid names indicated for each of these taxa.

Key words: section, subgenus, taxonomy.

Resumén. [Nuevos infragéneros en *Cypella* (Iridaceae: Tigridieae)]

Sobre la base de características morfológicas y anatómicas, se propone una nueva clasificación infragenerica para *Cypella* Herbert. Las treinta especies válidas se organizan en los subgéneros *Cypella* y *Naïs* (Ravenna) Deble. Además, se reconocen cinco secciones: *Cypella*, *Armosae* Deble, *Naïs* Ravenna, *Fasciculatae* Deble y *Magnificae* Deble; las dos primeras pertenecen al subgénero *Cypella* y las demás a *Naïs*. Siete especies consideradas válidas en POWO y cuatro infragéneros se excluyen de *Cypella*, indicándose los nombres válidos para cada uno de estos taxones.

Palavras chave: seção, subgénero, taxonomia.

The infrageneric classification of *Cypella* was initially proposed by Ravenna (Ravenna 1964), who established *Cypella* Herbert (1826: sub pl. 2637) in a broad sense and considered four subgenera: *Cypella*, *Phalocallis* (Herbert 1839: pl. 3710) Ravenna (1964: 53), *Hesperoxiphion* (Baker 1877: 127) Ravenna (1964: 53, not formally published) and *Viruflos* Ravenna (1964: 53). Later, Ravenna (1977) rehabilitated *Phalocallis* and *Hesperoxiphion*, and, recently, *Viruflos* (Ravenna) Deble was erected to accommodate *Cypella craterantha* Ravenna (1964: 52) (Deble 2026). In a new attempt to establish infrageneric divisions in *Cypella*, Ravenna segregated the genus into three sections: *Cypella*, *Naïs* [Nais] Ravenna (1981a: 489), and *Ionella* (2003: not formally published) (Ravenna 1981a, Ravenna 2003). The sections *Cypella* and *Naïs* have been recognized as useful for identifying morphological groups within *Cypella* (Ravenna 1981b, Deble et al. 2015a, Deble et al. 2015b, Deble & Alves 2017, Deble et al. 2021). More recently, the genus *Misionella* Deble (2025: 8) was raised to accommodate the taxa before included within

Cypella section “*Ionella*” (Deble 2025).

According to the more recent synoptic revision of *Cypella* (Deble & Alves 2020) and taxonomic adjustments before performed, with description of new taxa (Deble 2021a), and exclusion of other (Deble 2021b, Deble et al. 2025), *Cypella* encompasses thirty species with geographic distribution in Central and Southeast South America, the majority of them are restrict to the Southeast South American Grasslands (Deble 2022). Nevertheless, in the treatment of POWO (2026) *Cypella* is recognized in a broader sense and 35 species are listed, thus some species that currently are recognized out of *Cypella* (e.g. see Ravenna 2009, Eggers et al, 2019, Deble 2021b, Deble 2025) are yet listed as valid names in POWO.

After 20 years of cultivate of majority of species of *Cypella* and also of the most closely related taxa, it was possible to recognize morphological groups within the genus and, based on previous proposals of segregation of *Cypella* into infrageneric entities (e.g. Ravenna 1981a), it is realized a new infrageneric approach from *Cypella*, based on morphological, and anatomical characteristics.

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Material and Methods

The morphological data mentioned in the text and the terminology used follow Goldblatt & Manning (2008), Beentje (2010), Deble et al. (2025) and Deble (2025). The description of the taxa is based on morphological characteristics of plants observed in natural habitat, cultivated specimens and on dry material. For the preparation of the Figures were used photographs of specimens in nature or in cultivation and the boards were edited in the Adobe photoshop program, version 23.x.

Taxonomic treatment

Cypella Herbert, Botanical Magazine 53: t. 2637 (text 2). 1826. Typus: *Tigridia Herbertii* Herbert, Botanical Magazine 52: t. 2599. 1825.

= *Polia* Tenore, Cat. Orto Bot. Napoli: 92. 1845. Typus: *Polia bonariensis* Tenore, Catalogo Orto Botanico di Napoli: 92. 1845. [nom. illeg.], non *Polia* Louriero (1790).

Description— Small to medium sized perennials plants. Bulbs with cataphylls thin, outer cataphylls dark-brown colored, roots fibrous, thin and persistent, not thickened. Stems nearly cylindrical or slightly angled, slender. Basal leaves at anthesis absent or few, plicate. Cauline leaf often present, and usually sheathing the stem, the upper leaves, if present, gradually smaller, and the most distal bracteiform at the base sheathing the basal part of the peduncles. Sinflorescence in rhipidium, branched or more rarely fasciculiform. Spathes herbaceous, pallid-green, bivalved, one or two-flowered, often pedunculate; outer valve plicate or convolute, smaller than the inner valve; inner valve convolute. Pedicel filiform, usually of equal length of the spathe. Flowers radially symmetrical, conspicuous, fugacious, light-yellow to orange, rarely white, with the tepals slightly adnate at the base, forming one central concavity. Tepals whorls notably dissimilar. Outer tepals obovate-oblong or oblong, patent or reflexes, often panduriform, base clawed; claws cuneate, often with few glandular trichomes scattered. Inner tepals geniculate-recurved, then curved upward; blades recurved, with a central depression densely covered by a carpet of one-celled glandular trichomes, surrounded by a lateral high part; claws cuneate, with glandular trichomes scattered. Staminal filaments 3, tape shaped, obclavate or thickened in both ends, free or totally connected forming a conical column; connective broad, thecae often darker, pollen dark-grey, bluish-grey, ochraceous

or yellow. Ovary oblong or obovate, 3-locular, with abundant ovules. Style slender towards the base and thickened at top, ending in three duplicate branches. Style branches channeled, attached for ½ of total length or free, ending in three crests, two of them adaxial, and one abaxial, with a transverse stigmatic portion. Capsules obovate or oblong, containing many seeds. Seeds angular, often brown or reddish brown, with epidermis minutely foveolate, more rarely smooth or folded.

Based on morphological and anatomical characteristics, *Cypella* is divided into two subgenera and five sections. The infrageneric structure of *Cypella* here proposed is summarized in Table 1.

Cypella subg. **Cypella** (Figure 1[A-O])

Description— Sinflorescence in rhipidium, branched. Spathes herbaceous, one or two-flowered, pedunculate, pallid-green, bivalved; outer valve curved, plicate or convolute; inner valve convolute. Flowers radially symmetrical, conspicuous, fugacious, light-yellow to orange, rarely white, with the tepals forming one central concavity. Tepal whorls notably dissimilar. Outer tepals obovate-oblong or oblong, patent or reflexes, often panduriform, base clawed; claws cuneate, translucent, often with few glandular trichomes scattered. Inner tepals geniculate-recurved, then curved upward; blades recurved, with a central depression densely covered by a carpet of one-celled glandular trichomes towards the basis of the blade; claws cuneate, shorter than the blades; Staminal filaments tape shaped, obclavate, filiform or thickened in both ends, free or totally connected forming a conical column.

Cypella sect. **Cypella**

Six species and four subspecies that grow in eastern and northeastern Argentina, Uruguay and southern Brazil.

Included taxa

1. **Cypella Alonsoana** Deble & F. S. Alves, Kew Bulletin 72 (3) 41: 2. 2017. (Figure 1C)
2. **Cypella catharinensis** Ravenna, Onira Botanical leaflets 10 (13): 39. 2005.
3. **Cypella guttata** Deble & F.S. Alves, Phytotaxa 236: 105. 2015. (Figure 1D)
4. **Cypella Herbertii**
Cypella Herbertii (Herbert) Herbert subsp.

Herbertii, Botanical Magazine 53: pl. 2637. 1826. Bas.: *Tigridia Herbertii* Herbert, Botanical Magazine 52: pl. 2599. 1825. ≡ *Moraea Herbertii* (Herbert) Lindley, Bot. Reg. 11: pl. 949. 1825 [1826]. ≡ *Phalocallis Herbertii* (Herbert) Kuntze, Revisio Generum Plantarum 2: 702. 1891. (Figure 1A-B) = *Cypella bonariensis* (Tenore) Niederl., Boletín Mensual, Museo de Productos Argentinos. Buenos Aires 3 (31): 332. 1890. ≡ *Polia bonariensis* Tenore, Catalogo Orto Botanico Napoli 92. 1845.

= *Polia brasiliensis* Tenore, Catalogo Orto Botanico Napoli: 57. 1845. [nom. nud.]

= *Cypella ramosa* (Klatt) Klatt, Abhandlungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft zu Halle. Halle. 12: 365. 1882. ≡ *Polia ramosa* Klatt, Linnaea 31: 544. 1862. ≡ *Cypella Herbertii* (Herbert) Herbert var. *ramosa* Baker, Journal of the Linnean Society 16: 129. 1877. ≡ *Cypella ramosa* Beauverd, Bulletin de la Société Botanique de Genève. ser. 2 (14): 167. 1923 [nom. superfl.].

Cypella Herbertii subsp. **brevicristata** Ravenna, Not. Bol. Soc. Argent. Botánica 10 (4): 312. 1965.

Cypella Herbertii subsp. **reflexa** Ravenna, Wrightia 7: 22. 1981.

Cypella Herbertii subsp. **Wolffhuegelii** (Hauman-Merck) Ravenna, Not. Bol. Soc. Argent. Bot. 10: 312. 1965. Bas.: *Cypella Wolffhuegelii* Hauman-Merck, Apuntes Hist. Nat. 1: 89. 1909.

5. Cypella Pabstiana Ravenna, Wrightia 7: 18. 1981.

6. Cypella parviflora Ravenna ex Deble & F. S. Alves, Kew Bulletin 72: 47. 2017. (Figure 1E)

Cypella sect. Armosae Deble, sect. nov.

Section Armosae belongs to the subgenus *Cypella*, from which differs by its stamens, with free, obclavate or filiform filaments, dilated only at the base or in both ends, and by its style, with free and armed style branches, with a short transverse stigmatic surface extending into two appendages on the abaxial crest.

Typus: *Cypella armosa* Ravenna Wrightia 7 (1): 20. 1981.

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Eleven species and two subspecies that grow in northeast Argentina, Uruguay and southern Brazil, two species reach as far as Paraguay.

Included taxa

1. Cypella amambaica Ravenna, Onira Botanical leaflets 12 (1): 4. 2009.

2. Cypella armosa Ravenna, Wrightia 7 (1): 20. 1981. (Figure 1F-G)

= *Cypella gracilis* (Klatt) Baker f. *humilis* Baker, Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier 2 (3): 1102. 1903.

3. Cypella aurinegra

Cypella aurinegra Deble & A. González subsp. **aurinegra**, Phytotaxa 236: 102. 2015.

Cypella aurinegra Deble & A. González subsp. **albipurpurata** Deble, Darwiniana, nueva serie, 9(2): 182. 2021. (Figure 1H)

4. Cypella cruenta Deble, Balduinia 67: 2. 2021. (Figure 1I)

5. Cypella exilis Ravenna, Nordic J. Bot. 1: 492. 1981 ≡ *Polia gracilis* Klatt, Linnaea 31: 545. 1862. ≡ *Cypella gracilis* (Klatt) Baker, J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 16: 129. 1877 [non Klatt 1862] [comb. illeg.]. ≡ *Sphenostigma gracile* (Klatt) Benth. & Hook. f., Gen. Pl. 3 (2): 695. 1883. ≡ *Phalocallis gracilis* (Klatt) Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 702. 1891. (Figure 1J)

= *Cypella aplimaculata* Chauveau & L. Eggers, Phytotaxa 174(1): 29. 2014.

6. Cypella fucata Ravenna, Wrightia 7 (1): 18. 1981. (Figure 1K)

= *Cypella Osteniana* Beauv. subsp. *aurantiaca* Roitman & J. A. Castillo, Bol. Soc. Argent. Bot. 38 (3-4): 337. 2003.

7. Cypella lapidosa Ravenna, Wrightia 7: 21. 1981. = *Cypella altouruguaya* Chauveau & L. Eggers, Phytotaxa 174 (1), p. 26. 2014. (Figure 1L-M)

8. Cypella luteogibbosa Deble, Phytotaxa 71 (1): 60. 2012.

9. Cypella magnicristata Deble, Phytotaxa 71 (1): 63. 2012.

10. Cypella Osteniana Beauverd, Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève ser. 2 (14): 165. 1923. (Figure 1N)

11. Cypella trimontina Ravenna, Onira Botanical leaflets 12 (1): 2. 2009. (Figure 1O)

Cypella subg. Naïs (Ravenna) Deble, comb. et stat. nov. Bas. *Cypella* sect. *Naïs* Ravenna, Nordic Journal of Botany 1: 489. 1981. (Figure 2A-M).

Typus: *Cypella aquatilis* Ravenna, Nordic Journal of Botany 1: 489. 1981.

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Description— Sinflorescence in rhipidium, branched or more rarely fasciculiform. Spathes herbaceous, one or two-flowered, pedunculate, pallid-green, bivalved; outer valve curved, plicate

or convolute; inner valve convolute. Flowers radially symmetrical, conspicuous, fugacious, light-yellow to orange, rarely white, with the tepals forming one depth central concavity. Tepal whorls notably dissimilar. Outer tepals obovate-oblong or oblong, patent or reflexes, often panduriform, base clawed; claws cuneate, translucent, often with few glandular trichomes scattered. Inner tepals arcuate-recurved, then curved upward; blades recurved, with a central stripe densely covered by a carpet of one-celled glandular trichomes in the upper part of the blade; claws cuneate, longer than the blades; Staminal filaments obclavate, free or shortly adnate at the base.

Cypella Sect. Naïs

Ten species distributed in northeastern Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and southern, western and central Brazil.

Included taxa

1. **Cypella aquatilis** Ravenna, Nordic Journal of Botany 1: 489. 1981. (Figure 2A-B)
2. **Cypella charruana** Deble & F. S. Alves, Darwiniana, nueva serie, 3(2): 237. 2015.
3. **Cypella crenata** (Vellozo) Ravenna, Bol. Soc. Argent. Bot. 10 (4): 312. 1965. Bas.: *Sisyrinchium crenatum* Vellozo, Fl. Fluminensis 9: pl. 67. 1827 [1831]. = *Cypella paludosa* Klatt, Abhandl. Naturf. Gellesch. Un. Halle. 12: 365. 1882. = *Phallocalis paludosa* (Klatt) Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 1891.
4. **Cypella curuzupensis** Ravenna, Wrightia 7: 19. 1981.
5. **Cypella discolor** Ravenna, Wrightia 7 (1): 16. 1981. (Figure 2C-D)
6. **Cypella laeta** Ravenna, Wrightia 7 (1): 13. 1981 (Figure 2E-F)
= *Cypella yatayphila* Ravenna, Onira Botanical leaflets 12 (1): 3. 2009.
7. **Cypella laxa** Ravenna, Wrightia 7 (1): 15. 1981. (Figure 2G)
8. **Cypella Ravenniana** Deble & F.S. Alves, Phytotaxa 236 (2): 109. 2015.
9. **Cypella suffusa** Ravenna Onira Botanical leaflets 12 (1): 1. 2009.
10. **Cypella uliginosa** Deble & F.S. Alves, Darwiniana, nueva serie, 3: 237. 2015. (Figure 2H-I)

Cypella Sect. Fasciculatae Deble, sect. nov.

Section Fasciculatae belongs to the subgenus Naïs, from which differs by its spathes sessile or shortly pedunculate, forming a fasciculate inflorescence.

Typus: *Ferraria pusilla* Link & Otto, Ico. Pl. Select. 10: 125. 1828.

urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77395732-1

Two species endemics in Rio Grande do Sul state (Brazil).

Included taxa

1. **Cypella gloriana** Deble & F. S. Alves, Darwiniana, nueva serie, 3(2): 241. 2015. (Figure 2L)
2. **Cypella pusilla** (Link & Otto) Benth. & Hook. f. ex B. D. Jacks., Index Kewensis 1: 689. 1893. Bas.: *Ferraria pusilla* Link & Otto, Ico. Pl. Select. 10: 125. 1828. = *Herbertia pusilla* (Link & Otto) Sweet, Hort. Brit., ed. 2: 497. 1830. = *Polia pusilla* (Link & Otto) Klatt, Linnaea 31: 545. 1862. = *Hesperoxiphion pusillum* (Link & Otto) Baker, Jour. Linn. Soc., Bot. 16: 127. 1877. = *Phallocalis pusilla* (Link & Otto) Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 702. 1891. (Figure 2J-K)

Cypella Sect. Magnificae Deble, sect. nov.

Section Magnificae belongs to the subgenus Naïs, from which differs by its bulbs oblongs and proliferous and by its flowers with inner tepals firm texture, with blades nearly butterfly shape in upper view.

Typus: *Cypella rivularis* Chauveau & L. Eggers, Phytotaxa 174 (1): 36. 2014.

urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77395733-1

A single species narrowly endemic in southwestern Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and northern Uruguay.

Included taxon

1. **Cypella rivularis** Chauveau & L. Eggers, Phytotaxa 174 (1): 36. 2014. (Figure 2M-N)

Excluded taxa

1. *Cypella boliviana* Huaylla, Kew Bulletin 67: 297. 2012. = **Phallocalis geniculata** (Klatt) Ravenna, Noticiario Mensual, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural 249: 9. 1977.
2. *Cypella brasiliensis* (Baker) Roitman & J.A.Castillo, Darwiniana 45: 238 (2007). = **Kelissa brasiliensis** (Baker) Ravenna, Adansonia 4, 3: 106. 1981.

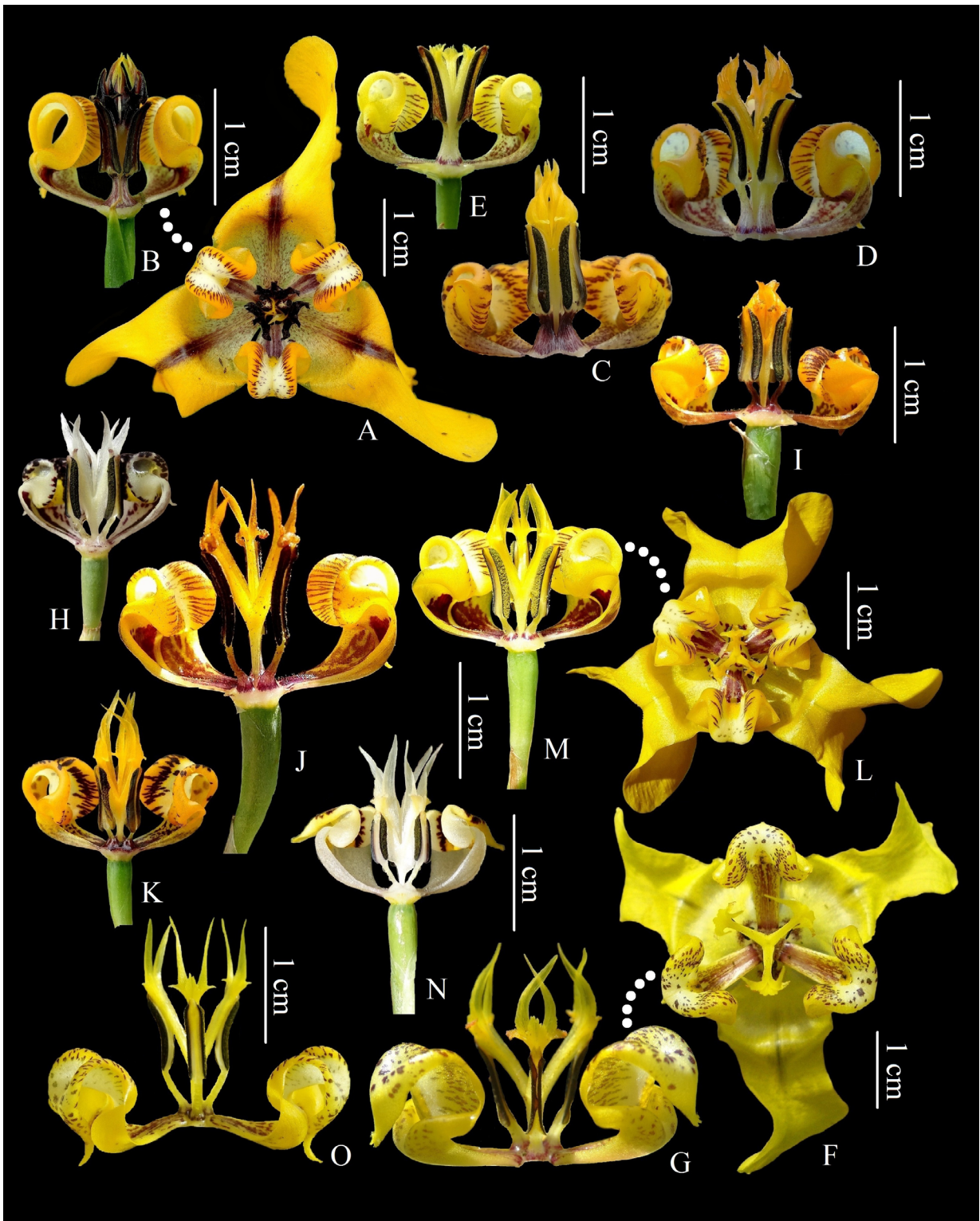


Figure 1. *Cypella* subg. *Cypella*. A-E, section *Cypella*. A-B, *C. Herbertii* subsp. *Herbertii*. C, *C. Alonsoana*. D, *C. guttata*. E, *C. parviflora*. F-O, section *Armosae*. F-G, *C. armosa*. H, *C. aurinegra* subsp. *albipurpurata*. I, *C. cruenta*. J, *C. exilis*. K, *C. fucata*. L-M, *C. lapidosa*. N, *C. Osteniana*. O, *C. trimontina*. A, F and L, flower, upper view. B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, M, N and O, flower, with outer tepals and one inner tepal removed, lateral view.

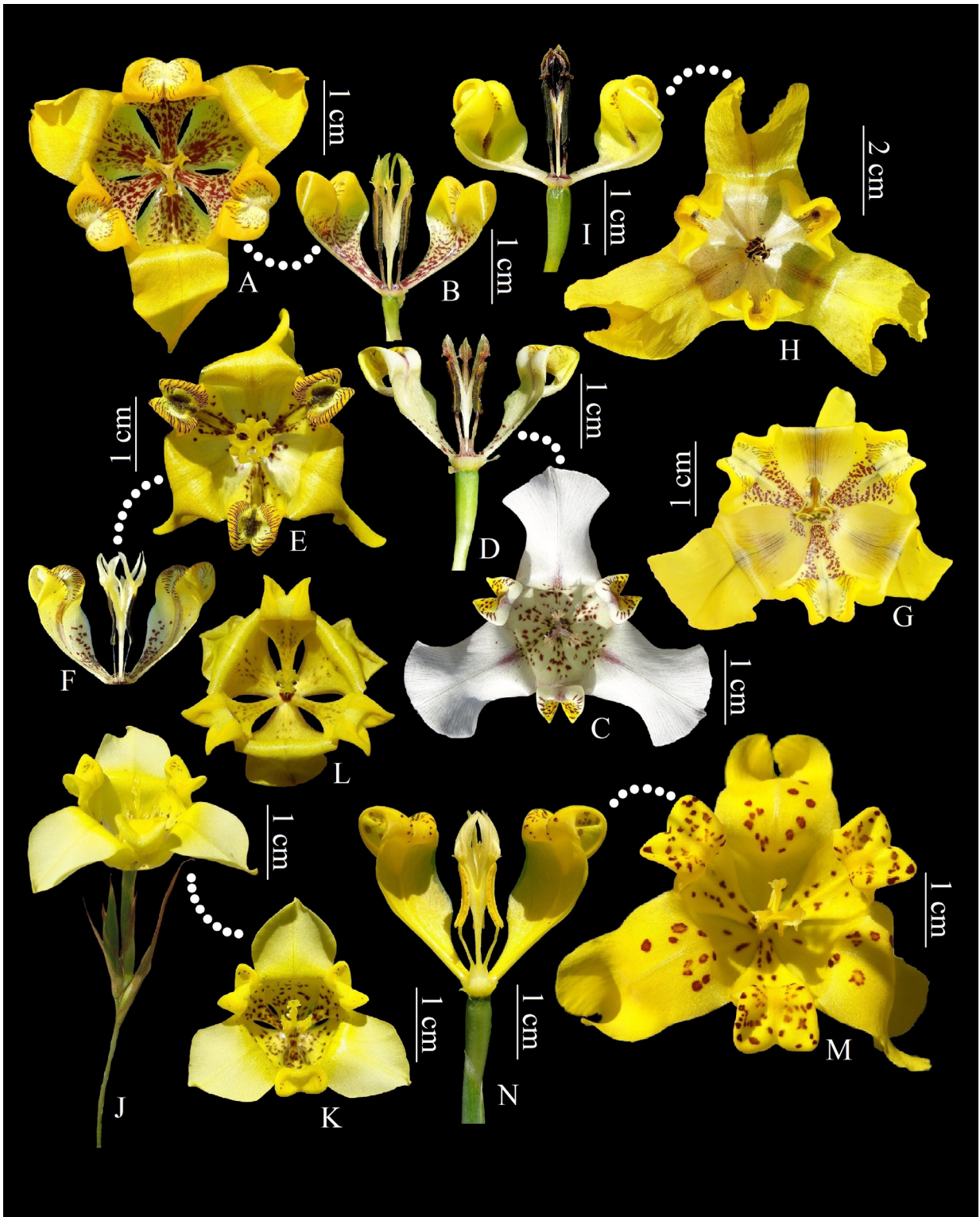


Figure 2. *Cypella* subg. *Naïs*. A-N. A-I, section *Naïs*. A-B, *C. aquatilis*. C-D, *C. discolor*. E-F, *C. laeta*. G, *C. laxa*. H-I, *C. uliginosa*. J-L, section *Fasciculatae*. J-K, *C. pusilla*. L, *C. gloriana*. M-N, section *Magnificae*, *C. rivularis*. A, C, E, G, H, K, L and M, flower, upper view. B, D, F, H, I and N, flower, with outer tepals and one inner tepal removed, lateral view. J, inflorescence, lateral view.

Table 1. Morphological characteristics of *Cypella* and its infrageneric taxa.

Genus		<i>Cypella</i> Herbert			
Subgenus	<i>Cypella</i>	<i>Naïs</i> (Ravenna) Deble			
Characteristics	Flowers with central concavity dome shaped, shallow. Inner tepals geniculate recurved, with a central depression densely covered by a carpet of lipid trichomes; claws broadly cuneate, shorter than the blades.	Flowers with central concavity urn-shaped, depth. Inner tepals arcuate-recurved, then curved upward; blades recurved, with a central stripe densely covered by a carpet of one-celled glandular trichomes in the upper part of the blade; claws cuneate, longer than the blades.			
Section	<i>Cypella</i>	<i>Armosae</i> Deble	<i>Naïs</i> Ravenna	<i>Fasciculatae</i> Deble	<i>Magnificae</i> Deble
Characteristics	Staminal filaments adnate or free in its distal half, tape shaped, forming a conical column. Style branches with long transverse stigmatic surface of the abaxial crest extending one in the each other crest.	Staminal filaments free, obclavate or filiform, dilated only at the base or at both ends. Style branches with a short transverse stigmatic surface extending into two appendages on the abaxial crest.	The same characteristics reported for the subgenus.	Flowers small, emerging from spathes sessile or shortly pedunculate, forming a fasciculate inflorescence.	Bulbs oblongs and proliferous. Flowers with inner tepals firm in texture, with blades nearly butterfly shape in upper view.
Species	<i>C. Alonsoana</i> , <i>C. catharinensis</i> <i>C. guttata</i> , <i>C. Herbertii</i> (subsp. <i>Herbertii</i> , <i>brevicristata</i> , <i>reflexa</i> , <i>Wolffhuegelii</i>), <i>C. Pabstiana</i> , <i>C. parviflora</i>	<i>C. amambaica</i> , <i>C. armosa</i> , <i>C. aurinegra</i> (subsp. <i>aurinegra</i> , <i>albipurpurata</i>), <i>C. cruenta</i> , <i>C. exilis</i> , <i>C. fucata</i> , <i>C. lapidosa</i> , <i>C. luteogibbosa</i> , <i>C. magnicristata</i> , <i>C. Osteniana</i> , <i>C. trimontina</i>	<i>C. aquatilis</i> , <i>C. charruana</i> , <i>C. crenata</i> , <i>C. curuzupensis</i> , <i>C. discolor</i> , <i>C. laeta</i> , <i>C. laxa</i> , <i>C. Ravenniana</i> , <i>C. suffusa</i> , <i>C. uliginosa</i>	<i>C. gloriana</i> , <i>C. pusilla</i>	<i>C. rivularis</i>

3. *Cypella craterantha* Ravenna, Revista Inst. Munic. Bot. 2: 52. 1964. = **Viruflos crateranthus** (Ravenna) Deble, Balduinia 77: 20. 2026.

4. *Cypella geniculata* (Klatt) Ravenna, Revista Inst. Munic. Bot. 2: 53. 1964. = **Phalocallis geniculata** (Klatt) Ravenna, Noticiario Mensual, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural 249: 9. 1977.

5. *Cypella mandonii* Rusby, Mem. Torrey Bot. Club 6: 125. 1896. = **Phalocallis** sp.

6. *Cypella oreophila* Speg., Physis (Buenos Aires) 2: 44. 1917. = **Phalocallis oreophila** (Speg.) Ravenna, Noticiario Mensual, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural 249: 9. 1977.

7. *Cypella unguiculata* (Baker) Roitman & J.A.Castillo, Darwiniana 45: 238. 2007. = **Onira**

unguiculata (Baker) Ravenna, Nordic Journal of Botany 3: 204. 1983.

8. *Cypella* subg. *Phalocallis* (Herbert) Ravenna, Revista Inst. Munic. Bot. 2: 53. 1964. = **Phalocallis** Herbert, Botanical Magazine 65 (n. ser. v. 12): pl. 3710. 1839.

9. *Cypella* subg. *Hesperoxiphion* (Baker) Ravenna, Revista Inst. Munic. Bot. 2: 53. 1964. = **Hesperoxiphion** Baker, Journal of Linnean Society, Botany 16: 127. 1877.

10. *Cypella* subg. *Viruflos* Ravenna, Revista Inst. Munic. Bot. 2: 53. 1964. = **Viruflos** (Ravenna) Deble, Balduinia 77: 19. 2026.

11. *Cypella* sect. *Ionella* Ravenna, Botanica Australis 4. 2003 [not validly published]. = **Misionella** Deble, Balduinia 74: 4.2025.

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Declaration of conflicts of interest/competing Interests

The author declares that he has no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to undermine the objectivity or integrity of the work reported in this paper.

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