

Brassia Allenii *L. O. Williams ex C. Schweinfurth*
sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica, robusta, sine pseudobulbo caulique. Vaginarum foliiferarum fasciculus flabelliformis. Vaginae conduplicatae, imbricatae. Folia oblanceolata vel oblongo-lanceolata vel lineari-oblanceolata, oblique acuta. Inflorescentia lateralis, axillaris, foliis brevior, laxe pauciflora. Flores pro genere parvi. Sepala similia, lineari-lanceolata, supra longe attenuata. Petala quam sepala breviora et latiora, oblique et anguste lanceolata, longe attenuata. Labellum ovatum vel suborbiculari-ovatum, antice abrupte in apicem anguste triangularem productum; discus callis duobus brevibus carnosus apice in dentem productis ornatus. Columna abbreviata, crassa.

Plant epiphytic, more or less robust. Roots fibrous, glabrous, stout, numerous. Stems or pseudobulbs lacking, their place being taken by a flabellate cluster of leaf-bearing sheaths. Leaf-sheaths several to numerous, imbricating, conduplicate, nervose, surrounded on each side by abbreviated often non-leaf-bearing sheaths. Leaves oblanceolate to oblong-lanceolate or linear-oblanceolate, very obliquely acute with one side of the apex much surpassing the other, gradually narrowed to a complicate or conduplicate base, plicate, many-nerved with about seven to nine nerves prominently exerted beneath, commonly about 18.5–30 cm. long and 2.3–2.7 (rarely 3.8) cm. wide. Inflorescence in the axil of an upper leaf-sheath, loosely 6- to 7-flowered from near the base, distinctly shorter than the leaves, gently recurved. Floral bracts conspicuous, deeply concave, ovate, amplexicaul, acute or acuminate, scarious, many-nerved, slightly sur-

EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

PLATE XII. *BRASSIA ALLENII* L. O. Wms. ex C. Schweinfurth. 1, plant, natural position, about one half natural size. 2, flower, from front, about five sevenths natural size. 3, column and base of lip, from side, about twice natural size.

Drawn by DOROTHY O. ALLEN

PLATE XII



passing the pedicellate ovary, the lower ones 1.9–2.7 cm. long. Flowers rather small for the genus, non-resupinate in natural position (i.e. with the lip uppermost). Dorsal sepal linear-lanceolate, long-attenuate with conduplicate upper portion, about 3.7 cm. long and 5 mm. wide below. Lateral sepals similar but apparently a little longer and narrower (sometimes slightly broader), about 4.3 cm. long and 4 mm. wide. Petals obliquely and narrowly lanceolate, long-attenuate above with conduplicate margins, about 3.3 cm. long and 6 mm. wide below. Lip ovate or suborbicular-ovate, with the lobulate anterior margins terminating abruptly in a more or less elongate triangular or linear-triangular mucro, subcordate at base, about 1.5–2.1 cm. long and 1.2–1.5 cm. wide near the base; disc at the base just in front of the column with a pair of short approximate fleshy keels which are deeply constricted in front forming a pair of conical complanate teeth. Column very short and stout, wingless, about 3 mm. high at the back.

This species is extremely variable both vegetatively and florally. The measurements of the most complete specimen, which has been taken as the type, are uniformly somewhat smaller than those of other collections. *Brassia Allenii* seems to be related to the Venezuelan *Brassia glumacea* Lindl., but differs in having a much stouter habit, in having the racemes markedly shorter than the leaves and in its apparently dissimilar lip.

This concept was first considered as new and was named by Dr. Louis O. Williams, but has remained undescribed until this time.

PANAMA: Prov. of Panama, summit of Cerro Campana near Campana, at about 1000 meters altitude, in cloud forest, October 2, 1947, Paul H. Allen 5150 (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 64857); Prov. of Coeléc, vicinity of El Valle, at 800–1000 meters altitude, sepals and petals dark reddish brown, lip yellow, fragrant, August 17, 1937, P. H. Allen

374; Prov. of Coel , mountains beyond La Pintada, at 400-600 meters altitude, February 17, 1935, *A. A. Hunter & P. H. Allen* 592 (old fruit); Prov. of Coel , region north of El Valle de Anton, vicinity of La Mesa, at about 1000 meters altitude, very common in dark wet forest of higher elevations, November 12, 1941, *P. H. Allen* 2830; same locality, Finca Mu oz, at 800-1000 meters altitude, Feb. 2, 1942, *P. H. Allen* 2922; same locality, at about 700-800 meters altitude (flowered by Mr. Elmer Ohlson, September 10, 1942), *P. H. Allen* 2963; Prov. of Coel , "Loma del Tigre," hills north of El Valle de Anton, at 1000 meters altitude, November 16, 1946, *P. H. Allen* 3804.