

**Ornithidium sigmoideum** *C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba robusta, sparsissime ramosa. Caules vaginis conduplicatis imbricantibus lanceolatis omnino celati, pseudobulbos perdistantes ferentes. Pseudobulbi complanato-ellipsoidei, monophylli. Folia oblongo-elliptica, cum petiolo distincto. Flores mediocres. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-lanceolatum, concavum. Sepala lateralia oblongo-lanceolata. Petala oblonga. Labellum inferne profunde saccatum, valde sigmoideum, superne trilobatum cum lobis lateralibus semicuneatis erectis et lobo terminali parvo ovato conduplicato. Columna gracilis.

Plant robust, about 45 cm. tall. Roots fibrous, flexuous, numerous. Stem stout, very sparingly branched, about 5 mm. in diameter in the dried specimen, entirely invested by distichous imbricating shining sheaths which are conduplicate, triangular-lanceolate, deeply carinate, mucronate and slightly incurved in natural position, but are evanescent on the lower portion of the stem, bearing pseudobulbs at intervals of 25 cm. more or less. Pseudobulbs complanate-ellipsoid, 2.3 cm. long or more, monophyllous, shining, surrounded and surpassed by a pair of distichous leaf-bearing sheaths. Leaves oblong-elliptic, petioled; blade up to 15 cm. long and nearly 4 cm. wide, acute or acuminate, chartaceous, with the mid-nerve

somewhat sulcate above and carinate beneath; petiole distinct, conduplicate, long or very short, up to 4 cm. in length. Inflorescences short, 1-flowered, solitary, in the axils of the imbricated sheaths of the stem. Peduncles concealed by several conduplicate lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate imbricated acuminate bracts. Flowers medium-sized. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, strongly concave, about 14.9–16 mm. long and 5–6 mm. wide, complicate-acute, 7- to 9-nerved, dorsally carinate toward the apex. Lateral sepals oblong-lanceolate, acute or subacute, somewhat asymmetric, about 13.5–15 mm. long, 4.5–5 mm. wide near the base, 6- to 7-nerved. Petals oblong, acute, about 12–14 mm. long, 3 mm. wide, acute, 5-nerved, with a slight concavity near the apex on the posterior margin. Lip rigidly attached to the column-foot, sigmoid-curved below, about 11.5–12.8 mm. long in natural position, deeply 3-lobed about one third the length from the apex, with the basal portion (about 5 mm. long) deeply saccate, the sac porrect and almost contiguous to the abruptly reflexed central portion; lateral lobes erect, spreading, semicuneate, with a straight anterior margin, free portion about 2.5 mm. wide; mid-lobe small, strongly conduplicate, concave at the base, broadly ovate when expanded, complicate-acute, about 4–5 mm. long; disc with a small fleshy oblong-ovate sulcate callus which extends from the sinus of the lateral lobes as a free projection above the lower portion of the mid-lobe. Column slender, about 8–8.9 mm. long, slightly arcuate, extended into a short foot forming a mentum with the lateral sepals.

Two additional collections bearing the imperfect remains of the perianth at the summit of enlarged ovaries show larger leaves than the type. In *Standley 33065* the longest leaf is 18 cm. in length, while in *Standley 33058* the broadest leaf is about 4.9 cm. in width.

*Ornithidium sigmoideum* appears to be most closely allied to *O. Wrightii* (Schltr.) C. Schweinf., but differs strikingly in the details of the lip and in the relatively elongate column.

The specific name is in allusion to the lip.

COSTA RICA, Cerro Gallito. At 2000 meters altitude. December 20, 1927. *M. Valerio 72* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 33641): Province of San José, La Palma. Epiphyte on mossy tree trunk. At about 1600 meters altitude. February 3, 1924. *Paul C. Standley 33058, 33065.*