

NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN PLANTS

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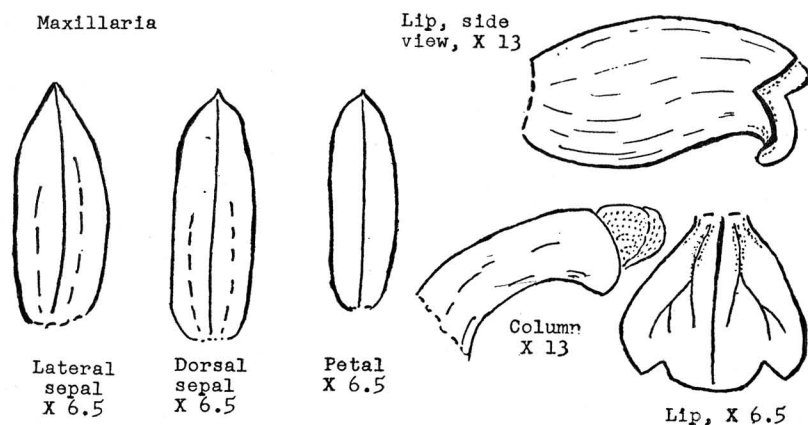
THE THREE SPECIES of plants described here have been retained for study for some time. The *Persea* and the *Lobelia* have been or will be widely distributed to other herbaria. The types are in the herbarium of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana.

Maxillaria vittariifolia L. Wms., sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica, parva, caespitosa, usque ad 6 cm. alta. Foliis linearibus, acutis. Inflorescentia uniflora. Sepalum dorsale anguste oblongo-lanceolatum, acutum. Sepala lateralia ovato-lanceolata, arcuata. Petala anguste oblona. Labellum trilobum, late obovatum.

Small epiphytic herbs to about 6 cm. tall. Pseudobulbs 8-10 mm. long, as broad and 4-5 mm. thick, unifoliate, broadly ovate; new bulbs with a leaf and 1-2 cataphylls.

Leaves 20-55 mm. long and 1.5-2 mm. broad, linear, acute. Inflorescence a slender one-flowered scape equaling or exceeding the leaves; scape with 2-3 inconspicuous bracts and one conspicuous one subtending the flower. Flowers small; dorsal sepal about 5 mm. long and 1.6 mm. broad, narrowly oblong-lanceolate, acute, obscurely 3-nerved; lateral sepals about 5 mm. long and 2 mm. broad, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, slightly arcuate, obscurely 3-nerved; petals about



4-5 mm. long and 1.5 broad, narrowly oblong, acute, 1-nerved; lip about 3.5 mm. long and 4 mm. broad, 3-lobed, 3-nerved, broadly obovate, the lateral lobes short, acute, middle lobe short, broad and rounded; column about 2.5 mm. long, arcuate, auriculate at the apex; anther obscurely papillose.

COSTA RICA: El General valley, probably upper slopes, September 20, 1951, coll. Alex Smith, comm. C. H. Lankester 1581 (TYPE).

A distinctive small species which apparently has no near allies. There is nothing similar in the Ames Orchid Herbarium nor do I find anything in the literature.

Paul Allen, who has seen my specimen, believes that he has collected the same species from near Palmar Sur, Costa Rica.