

MESOAMERICAN ORCHID STUDIES IV: A NEW *CLEISTES* FROM COSTA RICA

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ABSTRACT

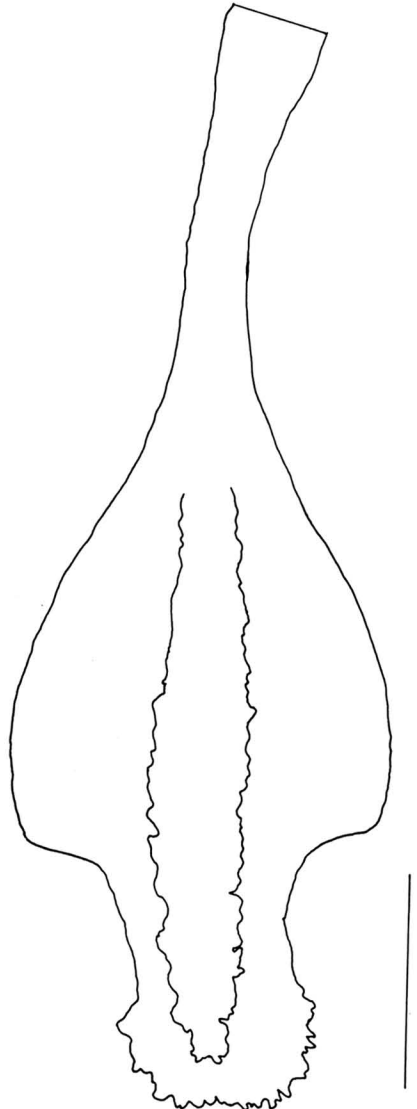
A new species of *Cleistes*, *Cleistes costaricensis* E. A. Christenson, is described and illustrated.

THE GENUS *Cleistes* comprises approximately 50 species in the Neotropics with two species in temperate North America. Previously included in a broadly defined *Pogonia*, recent authors maintain *Cleistes* as a distinct genus (Dressler, 1980; Garay, 1978; Werkhoven, 1986, *q.v.*).

Only one species of *Cleistes* has been recorded from Mesoamerica, *C. rosea* Lindley, known from Costa Rica, Panama, and northern South America (Williams, 1946). Examination of historic Brenes collections at NY, revealed a second species from Costa Rica, described here.

Cleistes costaricensis E. A. Christenson, *sp. nov.*
TYPE: COSTA RICA. Prov. Alajuela: La Palma de San Ramon, 1175 m, 4 Oct 1924, *A. M. Brenes 1119* (261) (Holotype: NY).

Herbae erectae terrestres. Caules graciles, 36-54 cm longi. Folia 4, sessiles, lineares, acuti, usque ad 10 cm longi, 1.5-1.8 cm lati. Flores 2, e foliorum summorum axillis orate. Sepala dorsalis linearia, acuta, 2.8 cm longa, 0.6 cm lata. Sepala laterales sepalo dorsali subsimili, 3 cm longa, 0.6 cm lata. Petala linearia, obtusa, irregulariter paucidentatus ad apice, 2.4 cm longa, 0.5 cm lata. Labella 3-loba, cuneata, 2.7 cm longa, a laterilobis 0.85 cm lata; laterilobi oblique triangulares; medilobi late unguiculati, suborbiculares, fimbriati, 0.6 cm longi, 0.45 cm lati. Cristae lineares, irregulares, secus subtotam longitudinem labella. Columnae 1.4 cm



¹I wish to thank the staff at NY for courtesies extended during my visits.

Fig. 1. Labellum of *Cleistes costaricensis* E. A. Christenson drawn from Brenes 11325 (AMES). Bar = 0.5 cm.

longae. Ovaria 2.3 cm longa. Fructus cylindrici, 3 cm longi, 0.3 cm lati.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA. Prov. Alajuela, La Palma de San Ramon, A. M. Brenes 1004 (209=170), NY; Prov. Alajuela, La Palma de San Ramon, 1100 m, A. M. Brenes 11325 (AMES). Prov. Cartago: south of Cartago, 1700 m, 14 Sep 1975, C. Luer, J. Luer, & K. S. Walter 4144 (SEL).

Cleistes costaricensis differs from *C. rosea* by its much smaller flowers (dorsal sepal to 2.8 cm long), 3-lobed labellum, and fimbriate, suborbicular label- lum midlobe. *Cleistes rosea*, in contrast, has much larger flowers (dorsal sepal to 7 cm long) and an unlobed labellum with an entire margin at most lightly lacerate towards the apex. In overall similar-

ity and proportion of flowers to plant, *C. costaricensis* is reminiscent of the Brazilian *C. ionoglossa* Hoehne & Schltr.

See Barringer (1986) for a discussion of Brenes' collection localities and complicated specimen numbering system.

LITERATURE CITED

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