

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY ORCHIDS

Malaxis epiphytica *Ames sp. nov.* Herba epiphytica, glabra. Radices incrassatae, lanuginosae. Folia conferta subrosulata, ascendente, elliptico-lanceolata, acuminata, acuta, basi in petiolum sulcatum contracta, subtus purpurea, omnia tenuia. Pedunculus demum folia superans, infra racemum paucibracteatus, bracteis linearibus acutis nonnihil dependentibus. Racemus multiflorus, elongatus. Bractee inflorescentiae lineares, acutae. Flores extus purpurei, glabri. Sepala lateralia elliptica, obtusa, concava, trinervia. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-ellipticum, utrinque leviter attenuatum, trinervium. Petala anguste oblonga, obtusa, uninervia. Labellum trilobatum; lobis lateralibus antice longe tridentatis; lobo medio bi-vel tridentato. Auriculae labelli post columnam extensae, obtuse triangulares. Columna generis.

Epiphytic herb 26 cm. tall to the tip of the raceme. Roots up to 10 cm. long, fleshy, covered with matted, woolly hairs. Stems concealed by the sheathing leaves, stout, erect. Leaves crowded at the base of the plant, about eight in number, increasing in size upwards, 9–20 cm. long, 2–5.2 cm. wide, smooth, elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, acute, in living specimens bronzy green above and purplish beneath, delicate in texture, ascending, contracted at base in sheathing petioles. Peduncle about 20 cm. long, with several linear acute bracts below the raceme. Raceme 6 cm. or more long, the flowers opening in succession, the flowering period being a long one. Bracts of the raceme up to 1 cm. long, linear, acute, exceeding the slender ovary. Pedicel with the 6-winged ovary 5.5 mm. long. Lateral sepals 4–4.5 mm. long, about 3 mm. wide, elliptical, obtuse, strongly concave, 3-nerved. Dorsal sepal 4.5 mm. long, 2.5 mm. wide, oblong-elliptical, obtuse, 3-nerved. Petals 4 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, narrowly oblong, obtuse, 1-nerved. Labellum 6 mm. long

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including the auricles, 3-lobed, with the lateral lobes tridentate; lateral lobes including the auricles up to 5 mm. long, divided in front into three teeth of which the middle one is the longest and up to 2.5 mm. long, linear, acute; middle lobe 2.5 mm. long, about 2 mm. wide, bilobulate in front or sometimes trilobulate, the lobules more or less obtuse. Auricles 2 mm. long. Column 1 mm. long.

In the details of the labellum *M. epiphytica* is very similar to **Malaxis micrantha** (*Hook. f.*) *Ames comb. nov.* (*Microstylis micrantha Hook. f.* in *Hook. Icon. Pl.* (1889) t. 1834), but is clearly distinguished by the larger flowers, somewhat different habit and larger vegetative parts. Among Philippine species it is most closely related to *Malaxis dentata* Ames, from which it differs in its larger flowers and longer lip-segments. Another closely allied species is *M. McGregorii* Ames, from which *M. epiphytica* differs in having a narrower labellum with shorter auricles and longer lip-segments.

PHILIPPINES, Mindanao, Cotabato District, *C. M. Weber* 223, August 24, 1911. Epiphyte on tree trunk. Flowers with purple exterior and yellow interior. 2700 feet altitude. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 12491.)