

FIG. 1. Distribution of *E. lentii*, *E. stolonifer*, and *E. tillandsioides*.

***Elleanthus stolonifer* Barringer, sp. nov. (Fig. 2)**

Species caulibus erectis et stoloniferis, foliis 1.2–1.7 cm longis perangustis, pedicellis laxis, strigosis, labioque e cristato bene distincta.

Epiphyte; stems erect or rhizomatous, the erect stems 5–7 cm long, terete, caespitose, leafy above the base, the rhizomes to 20 cm long, rooting and sprouting branches at the nodes. Leaves distichous; base sheathing, striate, to 5 mm long, glabrous; lamina linear, 1.2–1.7 cm long, 1.5–2 mm wide, glabrous, conduplicate, the apex acute, keeled. Flowers 3–5, in lax, terminal racemes; lower bract foliaceous, to 1 cm long; upper bracts distichous, lanceolate, 5–7 mm long, brown, striate, chartaceous, the apex acuminate; rachis thin often lax, 3–4 mm long between bracts; pedicel and ovary 3 mm long, strigose; sepals white, lanceolate, 2–2.5 mm long, glabrous, the upper sepal acute, the lateral sepals acuminate with a slightly concave base; petals white, spatulate, 2 mm long, 0.5–1 mm wide at the slightly ruffled apex; lip white, obovate, 2–2.5 mm long, surrounding the column, the base saccate, with two, loose calli within, the apex ruffled, not distinctly lobed; column straight, 2 mm long. Fruit narrowly ovoid, 5 mm long, to 2 mm wide.

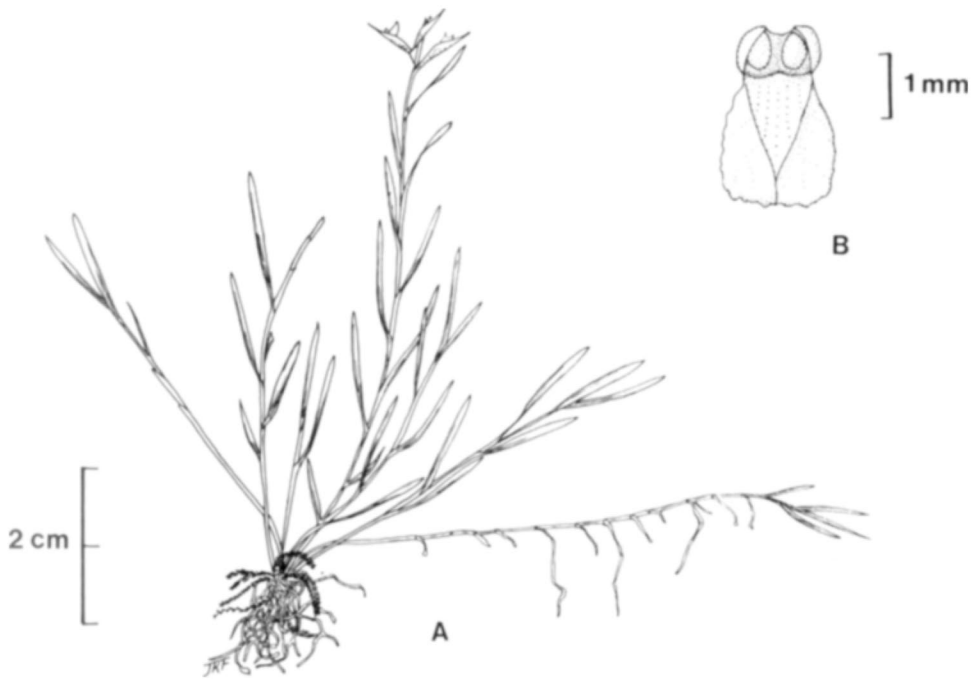


FIG. 2. *Elleanthus stolonifer*. A. Habit. B. Lip. Based on Hammell 2280 (MO).

TYPE: PANAMA. PROV. CHIRIQUÍ: La Fortuna Hydroelectric project, in cloud forest on ridge behind camp, 1300–1400 m, 23 Mar 1978, Hammell 2280 (HOLOTYPE: MO).

Additional specimens studied: COSTA RICA. PROV. ALAJUELA: along road from San Ramón northward through Balsa, 10°11'N, 84°30'W, 1050–1100 m, 10 Sep 1979, Stevens 14234 (F, MO). PANAMA. PROV. CHIRIQUÍ: along road between Gualaca and the Fortuna Dam site, at 7.9 mi NW of Los Planes de Hornito, 1300 m, 9 Apr 1980, Antonio 4132 (MO). PROV. PANAMA: Cerro Campana along trail to summit, 22 Jun 1972, Croat 17179 (MO); Cerro Jefe, 900 m, 12 Jan 1972, Maas & Dressler 703 (MO); Cerro Jefe, new road leading N from summit, 26 Sep 1975, Witherspoon & Witherspoon 8563 (MO).

This species is found above 1000 m in the mountains of Costa Rica and Panama (Fig. 1). It is to be expected in the Talamanca range of Costa Rica as the orchid flora of this area becomes better known. Some of the collections from Cerro Jefe and Cerro Campana in Panama have a more compact habit and acicular leaves, but the stolons, inflorescences, and flowers are identical to those found on larger specimens throughout the range of the species.

*Elleanthus stolonifer* is distinctive because of its diminutive habit, lax inflorescence, and stolons. It is the smallest species of *Elleanthus*, the longest stems being only 5–7 cm long. The stolons are unique in the genus. It is classified in section *Choidelyna* with the other grass-like species and has the distichous leaves and bracts, saccate lip base, and basally attached calli that distinguish the section.