

## CENTRAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

**Epidendrum estrellense** *Ames sp. nov.* Caules elongati, radicantes, ramosi, foliosi. Folia articulata, ligulata, utrinque attenuata, acuminata, acuta vel obtusa. Vaginae foliorum arcte appressae, complanatae. Inflorescentia terminalis, floribus distichis in racemum abbreviatum dispositis. Bracteae infra inflorescentiam imbricatae, valde complanatae. Flores flavidi, bracteas racemi vix excedentes. Sepala lateralia anguste elliptico-oblonga. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala spathulata, obtusa. Labellum col-

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umnae adnatum, simplex, suborbiculare, basi cordatum. Columna brevis.

Stems about 4 mm. in diameter, branched, rooting. Leaves distichous, 8–12 cm. long, up to 2.5 cm. wide, narrowly elliptic-oblong, rounded at base, gradually narrowed toward the acute or obtuse tip, rigid, jointed to rigid closely appressed complanate sheaths, the leaves 1–2.5 cm. apart. Inflorescence terminal. Flowers light viridine-yellow (Ridgway) when fresh, distichous in short racemes, the subtending bracts exceeding the pedicellate ovary. Raceme 2.5 cm. long, about 2 cm. across, few-flowered, subtended by seven or more closely imbricating complanate sheathing bracts which are 11–16 mm. long. Floral bracts about 12 mm. long, glumaceous. Pedicel with the ovary about 7 mm. long, wholly concealed by the subtending floral bract. Lateral sepals 1 cm. long, 3 mm. wide, narrowly elliptic-oblong, terminating in a blunt thickened tip, the three central nerves much thickened in dried specimens. Dorsal sepal about 1 cm. long, oblong, obtuse. Petals about 1 cm. long, 4 mm. wide above the middle, spatulate, obtuse, the nerves thickened. Labellum adnate to the column, including the adnate base 1 cm. long, up to 8 mm. wide, suborbicular-cordate, obtuse. Disc tricarinate, the middle keel extending to the tip of the labellum. Column 3 mm. long, with the clinandrium entire.

Undoubtedly a close ally of *Epidendrum phyllocharis* Reichb. f., from which it differs in being ecallose at the base of the labellum and in having the pedicellate ovary of each flower entirely concealed by an ample imbricating bract.

COSTA RICA, Cartago, La Estrella, C. H. Lankester & Alfredo Sancho 379, January 1923. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 23724.)