

**Epidendrum flexuosissimum** C. Schweinfurth  
*sp. nov.*

Herba parva, epiphytica, crassior. Rhizoma repens. Caules breves, robusti, approximati, vaginis tubulatis vel vaginarum fibris omnino tecti, apice bifoliati. Folia subopposita, late patentia, ovalia vel orbicularia, sessilia. Inflorescentia supra paniculata, laxe multiflora, cum pedunculo rachideque valde fractiflexa. Flores parvi, cum segmentis late patentibus. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-lanceolatum vel oblongo-lanceolatum, acuminatum. Sepala lateralia paulo majora, obliquissime elliptico-lanceolata, complicato-acuminata. Petala linearia, leviter sigmoidea, dense ciliata. Labellum columnae valde adnatum; lamina carnosae, medio trilobata; lobi laterales erecto-incurvi, aliformes; lobus medius triangularis, porrectus.

Plant small, rather stout, about 8–17 cm. high. Rhizome creeping (usually fragmentary in our specimens). Roots numerous, fibrous, glabrous, slender, commonly unbranched. Stems short, stout, suberect to lightly flexuous, approximate and spreading from the rhizome, 1- or 2-jointed, entirely concealed by two or three tubular imbricating sheaths or the fibres of sheaths, about 1–3 cm. long, 2-leaved at the apex. Leaves subopposite, widely spreading, oval to orbicular, sessile, apparently always rounded at the apex and sometimes with a small

mucro, coriaceous, about 1.5–3.6 cm. long, up to 2.5 cm. wide. Inflorescence divaricately paniculate, much surpassing the leaves, with the peduncle and rachis markedly fractiflex; peduncle 3–4.5 cm. long, complanate and narrowly bialate with two to four prominent spreading bracts which are conduplicate, broadly winged on the back and 1.2 cm. or less long. Bracts subtending the branches of the panicle similar but smaller. Panicle loosely several- to many-flowered, with spreading or recurved few-flowered branches. Flowers small, pale greenish yellow, with spreading segments. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, acuminate or short-acuminate, 3-nerved, about 8 mm. long and 2.2–2.9 mm. wide, dorsally keeled toward the apex. Lateral sepals very obliquely elliptic-lanceolate, complicate-acuminate above, concave, 3-nerved, prominently keeled toward the apex, 8.1–8.4 mm. long measured along the posterior margin, about 3 mm. wide. Petals linear, lightly sigmoid, acuminate, 1-nerved, with the margins densely ciliate, about 7 mm. long and 1.1 mm. wide. Lip adnate to the column nearly to the apex; lamina fleshy, concave below, 3-lobed near the middle, cordate at the base, acute or acuminate at the tip, 4–5 mm. long in the center; lateral lobes erect-incurved, semiovate or aliform, with or without a free apex; mid-lobe about equally large with the lateral lobes, porrect, triangular or ovate-triangular. Column stout and dilated upward when seen from the side, subentire at the apex, about 4 mm. long at the back.

This little species does not appear to have any near allies.

PANAMA: Coclé, Cerro Pajita, hills north of El Valle, at 1100 meters altitude, October 27, 1946, *Paul H. Allen 3780* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 65445).

## EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

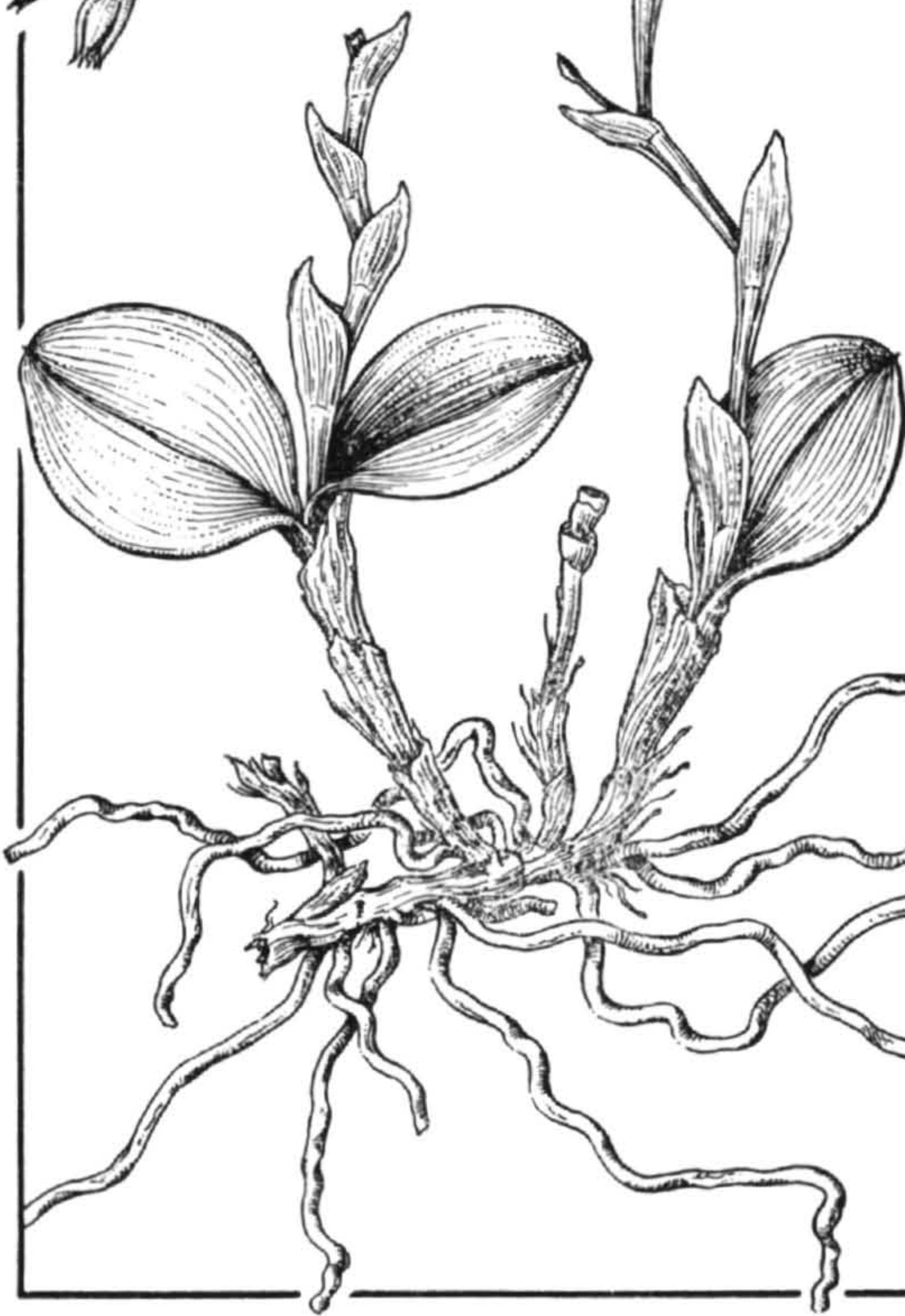
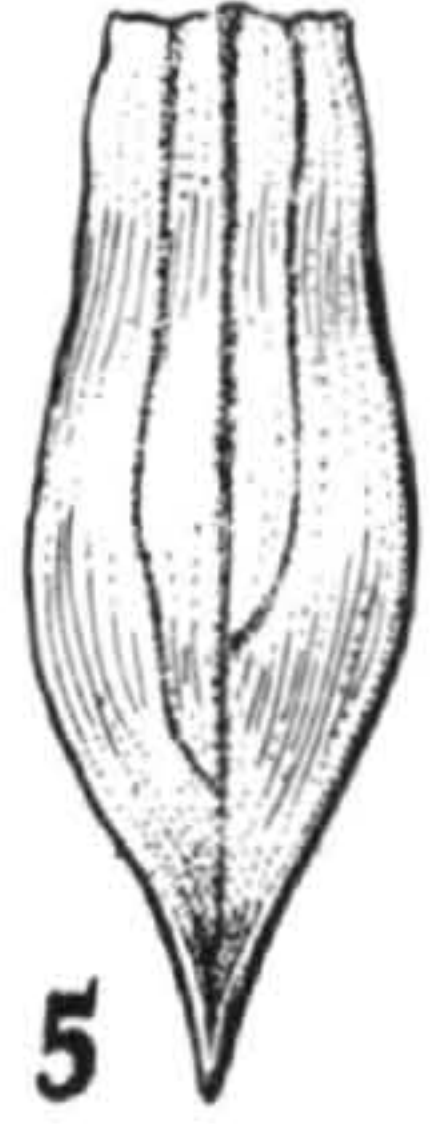
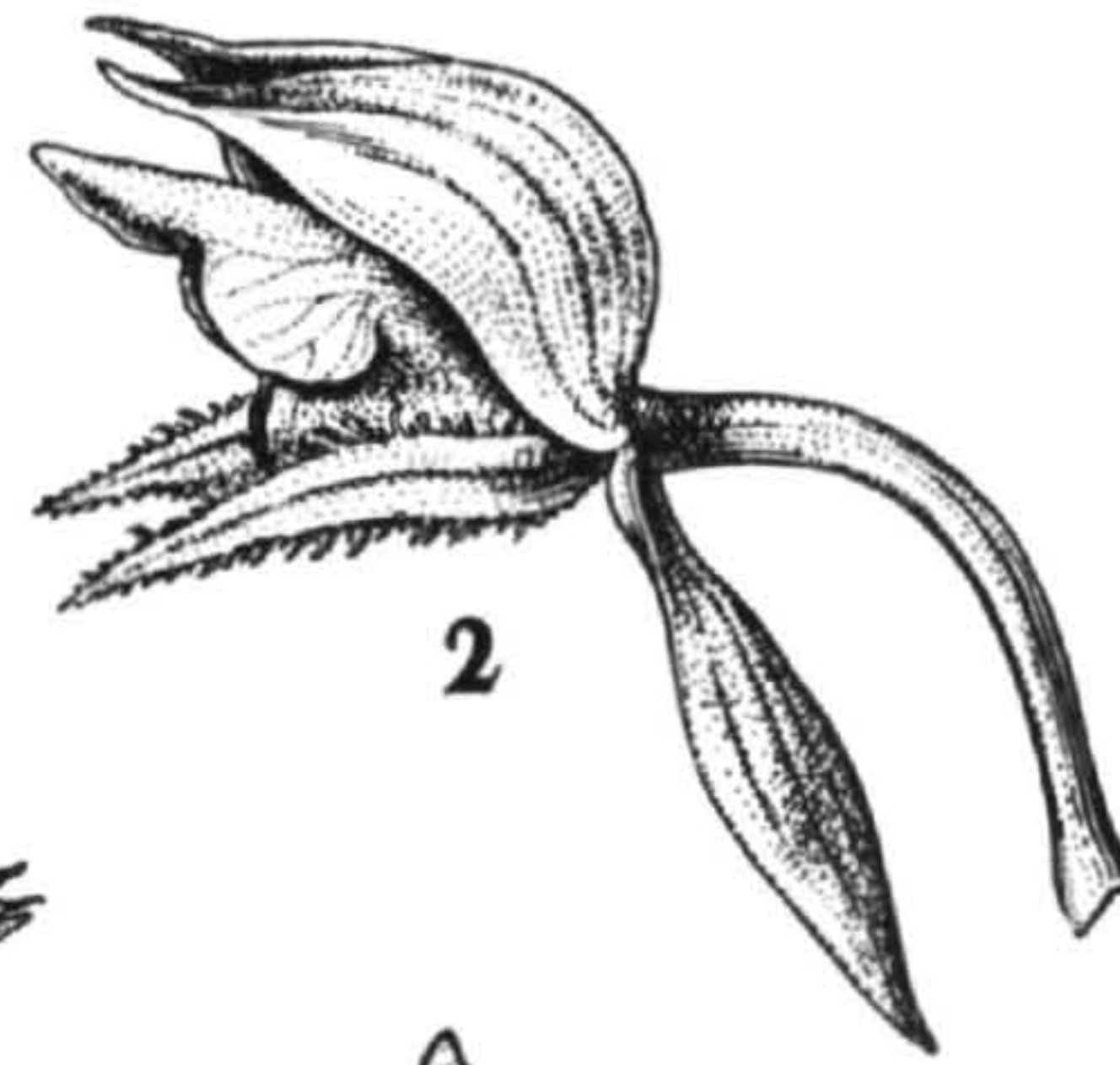
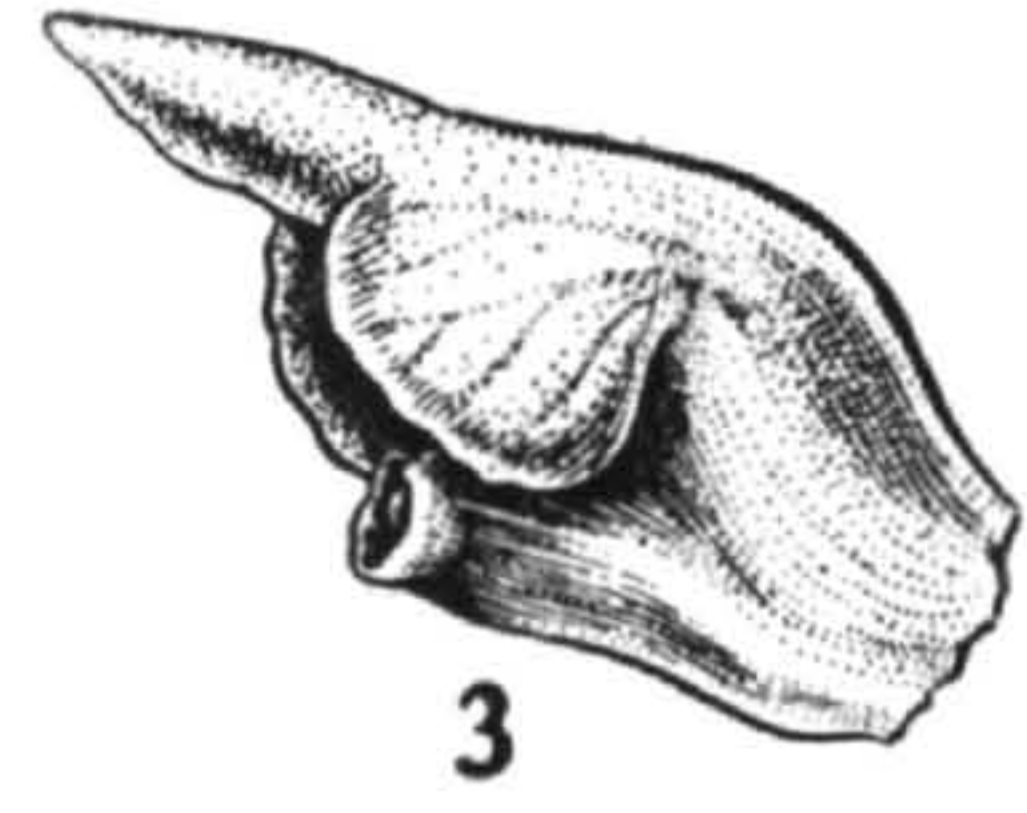
PLATE XIV. EPIDENDRUM FLEXUOSISSIMUM *C. Schweinfurth*. 1, plant, three fourths natural size. 2, flower from the side, natural position, two and one half times natural size. 3, lip and column from the side, natural position, three and one half times natural size. 4, lamina of lip expanded and apex of column, from the front, five times natural size. 5, dorsal sepal, three and one half times natural size.

*Drawn by* E. W. SMITH

EPIDENDRUM

*flexuosissimum*

C. Schweinf.



E.W. Smith