

1198. **Epistephium ellipticum** R. O. Williams & Summerhayes
[Orchidaceae-Neottiae]; species propter folia elliptica petiolata,
racemum brevem folia non excedentem distinctissima.

Herba terrestris, usque ad 30 cm. alta, radicibus carnis, caule
saepius simplici erecto 3 mm. diametro. *Folia* breviter petiolata,
elliptica vel oblongo-elliptica, apice abrupte acuta vel acuminata,

basi angustata, 4-6.5 cm. longa, 2.5-3 cm. lata, tenuiter coriacea, glabra, utrinque venis subprominentibus, venis primariis utrinsecus 4, infimis marginalibus, duabus intermediis costae subparallelis superne cum vena marginali conjunctis, supremis costae parallelis et cum ea fere confluentibus. *Racemi* terminales vel axillares, foliis breviores, usque ad 12-flori; bracteae triangulares, acuminatae, sub fructu persistentes et tum 3-4 mm. longae. *Sepala* spathulata, acuta, 2 cm. longa, 3 mm. lata, alba. *Petala* spathulata, 2 cm. longa, 4 mm. lata, alba. *Labelli* duae trientes inferiores columnam circumdantes et ei adnatae; labelli triens suprema dilatata, rotundata, integra, 8 mm. longa, ciliata, medio supra carnosopilosa. *Columna* 1.7 cm. longa, 1.5 mm. diametro, rosea; pollinia 2. *Capsula* linearis, circiter 3.5 cm. longa, 1.5-2 mm. diametro, longitudinaliter nervata, calyculo integro vel breviter dentato 1 mm. longo coronata. *Semina* minuta, plana, ala membranacea pellucida circumdata, vix 1 mm. longa.

TRINIDAD. Valencia Road, Mora Forest end, Sept. 1926, *Freeman, Williams, & Cheesman in Herb. Trinit.* 11324 (type): near Aripo Pool, Dec. 1927, *Freeman & Williams in Herb. Trinit.* 11903.

This species differs markedly from the other Trinidad species, *E. parviflorum* Lindl., and grows in a different habitat, i.e. in the shade of deep forest. *E. ellipticum* with its low stature, and crowded racemes among the elliptical shortly-stalked leaves is not closely related to any of the species described up to the present. Only *E. parviflorum* and *E. petiolatum* Huber have petiolate leaves but these differ in other respects, being tall plants with a long terminal raceme.