

A GENUS AND SPECIES UNRECORDED FOR PERU

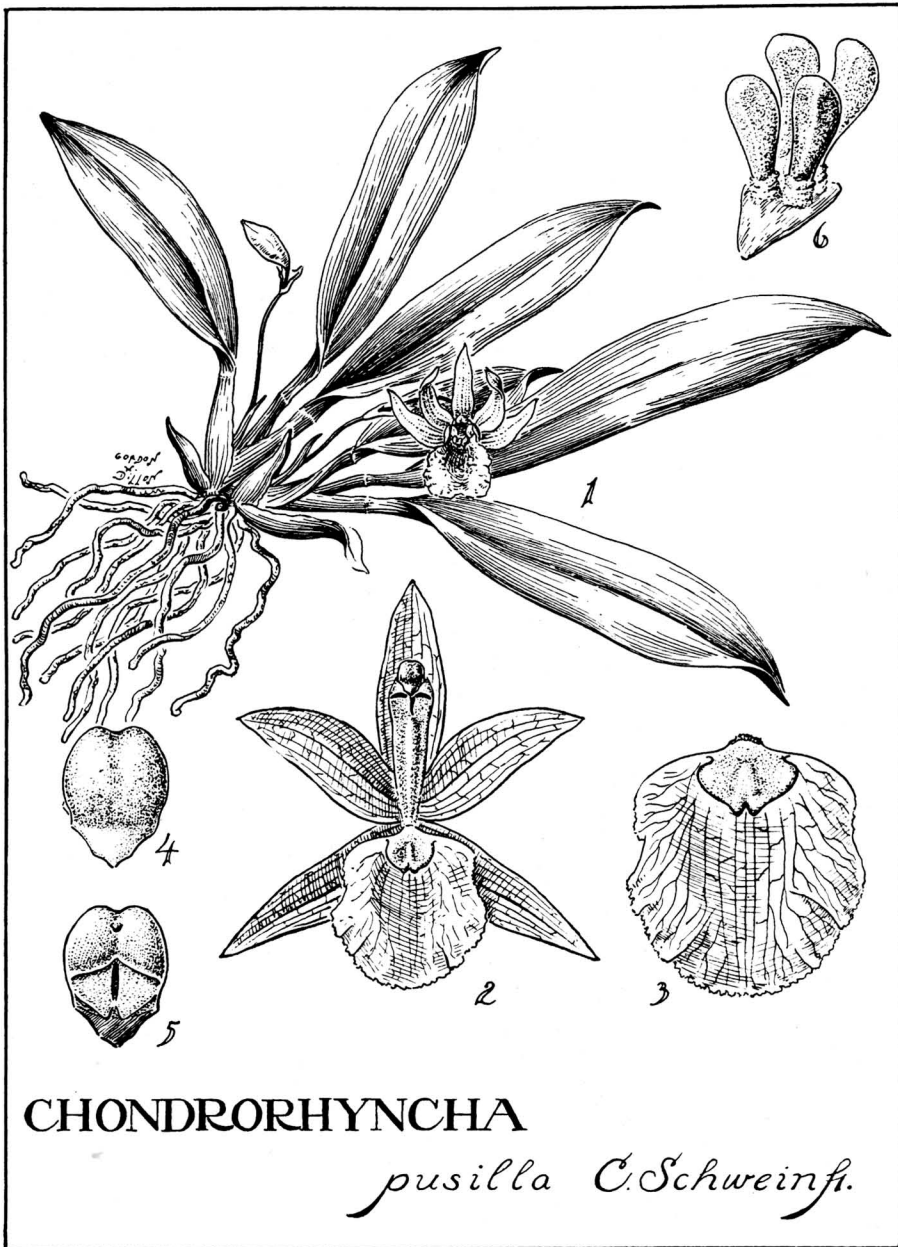
CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH

THIS LITTLE PLANT belongs to a small group of tropical American orchids which extends from Mexico, through Central America and northwestern South America to Venezuela, Bolivia and Peru. In general they are small tufted plants entirely without pseudobulbs, the solitary flower arising from sheaths on a slender stem near the base of the plant, the blossom being rather large in proportion to the narrow leaves. *Chondrorhynchus* have a definite charm but, except for one Panamanian and several Colombian species, they are far from showy and belong to that large group of plants known as botanical orchids.

Chondrorhyncha pusilla C. Schweinfurth *sp. nov.*

Herba parvula, epiphytica, caespitosa, epseudobulbosa. Folia pauca, vaginis conduplicatis distichis imbricatis articulata; lamina oblongo-elliptica vel anguste oblanceolata, acuta vel breviter acuminata, ad basim vix petiolatam angustate. Flos pro herba magnus. Segmenta late patentia. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-lanceolatum, acutum. Sepala lateralibus oblique oblongo-lanceolata, acuminata, sepalo dorsali paulo longiora. Petala oblique elliptico-lanceolata, sepalis paulo breviora sed latiora. Labellum simplex, rotundato-ovatum, prope basim utrinque leviter constrictum, apice late rotundatum, denticulato-erosum, basi callo transverse rhombico-ovato apice bidentato ornatum. Columna generis.

Plants small for the genus, caespitose, epseudobulbose, approximate, apparently epiphytic. Roots numerous, fibrous, glabrous. Stems very short. Leaves few, distichous, articulated to sheaths; sheaths imbricated, conduplicate, spreading, nervose, about 1.5 cm. long; blades oblong-elliptic to narrowly oblanceolate, acute or short-acuminate, narrowed below to a more or less distinct petiole, up to 7.3 cm. long and 1.2 cm. wide, thinly chartaceous, with the mid-nerve and two or four lateral nerves prominent beneath in the dried specimen. Scapes 1-flowered, lateral, axillary, filiform, flexuous, conspicuously exceeding the leaf-sheaths, about 2 cm. long, the peduncle having two or three loose tubular sheaths which are approximate below. Flower small but large for the plant, with spreading membranaceous segments. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate, complicate-acute, about 12.7 mm. long and 4.5 mm. wide, 7-nerved. Lateral sepals obliquely oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, dorsally carinate near the apex, concave at base, about 13.8 mm. long and 4.3 mm. wide below, 7-nerved. Petals obliquely elliptic-lanceolate, acute or short-acuminate, very obliquely adnate to the column at base, about 12.1 mm. long and 5 mm. wide, 7-nerved. Lip simple, subsessile, round-ovate, slightly constricted on each side near the base (subpandurate), about 11.2 mm. long and nearly 10 mm. wide across the concave base, broadly rounded in front with a minute apicule, denticulate-erose, with the anterior margins plicate-undulate; disc at base with a fleshy transversely rhombic-ovate callus which is abruptly bidentate in front and attached only at the base. Column complanate-cylindric, slightly dilated near the apex, flattened in front with a stout longitudinal keel, about 8.5 mm. long, produced into a short foot. Anther complanate-ovoid. Pollinia 4, oblong-pyriform, complanate, in 2 unequal pairs.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE

FIGURE 1, habit, $\times 1$. FIG. 2, flower, expanded, $\times 2$. FIG. 3, lip, expanded, $\times 3$. FIG. 4, anther, from above, $\times 6$. FIG. 5, anther, from below, $\times 6$. FIG. 6, pollinia, $\times 10$.

JUNÍN: Chanchamayo Valley, at 1200 meters altitude, "Dec. 1924-1927," *Carlos Schunke s.n.* (TYPE in Herb. Field Mus. 571649); same locality, at 1500 meters altitude, February 1930, *Schunke 1251*. (This collection is referred to the above species with some hesitation, since the leaf is slightly longer and narrower and the floral segments are very imperfect with a slightly dissimilar basal callus on the lip.)

This species is a member of the group which was designated as *Kefersteinia* with an elongate keel on the face of the column. However, this character, which appears to be the sole basis of separating *Kefersteinia* from the earlier *Chondrorhyncha*, seems to me of little consequence.

Chondrorhyncha pusilla is allied to *C. Wercklei* *comb. nov.* (*Kefersteinia Wercklei* Schltr. in Fedde Repert. Beih. 19 (1933) 53), but differs in having broader petals, somewhat dissimilar lip and column less prominently dilated above. — *Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.*