

CENTRAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

Malaxis Lankesteri *Ames sp. nov.* Herba terrestris,
bifoliata, foliis prope medium plantae. Radices fibratae.

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Caulis elongatus, gracilis. Folia approximata, subelliptica, in sicco valde membranacea, obtusa. Racemus congestus, flores subumbellati. Bracteae inflorescentiae squamiformes, acutae. Pedicelli graciles, oblique ascendentes. Sepala lineari-oblonga, margine valde revoluta. Petala filiformia. Labellum valde concavum, vix auriculatum, apice obscure trilobatum; lobis lateralibus porrectis, obtusis; lobo medio producto, obtuso, lateralibus angustiori. Discus in medio carinatus. Columna brevis.

Terrestrial herb up to 28 cm. high, bifoliate near the middle. Leaves approximate, 5.5 cm. long, 3 cm. wide, subelliptical, obtuse, membranaceous, mid-nerve prominent beneath. Peduncle, — or stem, — above the leaves, 18 cm. long, very slender, longitudinally sulcate. Inflorescence subumbellate. Bracts of the inflorescence squamiform, about 1 mm. long, acute, greenish, concave, much shorter than the slender pedicels. Flowers crowded. Pedicels obliquely ascending, with the ovary 5–12 mm. long, smooth, forming an obconical cluster. Lateral sepals nearly 4 mm. long, linear-oblong, obtuse, with the margin strongly revolute. Dorsal sepal similar. Petals filiform, 3.5 mm. long, obtuse. Labellum subsimple, 3 mm. long, without distinct basal auricles, about 2 mm. wide when flattened out, strongly concave, with a raised median carina within, obscurely 3-lobed at the tip; lateral lobes rounded and porrect; middle lobe narrower than the laterals and directed forward. Column short, hardly 1 mm. long.

This is a close ally of *Malaxis lagotis* (Reichb. f.) Ktze., *M. brachyrrhyncha* (Reichb. f.) Ames and *M. Javesiae* (Reichb. f.) Ames. From *M. lagotis* it is at once separable by the single carina of the labellum. *M. brachyrrhyncha* has broad sepals and a different labellum. *M. Javesiae* is monophyllous with quite a different labellum.

COSTA RICA, Las Concavas, C. H. Lankester 350, July 1919. (TYPE in Herb. Kew.)