

NEW ORCHIDS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA

BY

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THE FOLLOWING NEW SPECIES from Central America, mostly from Costa Rica, have been proposed as the result of a study of a large collection recently made in Costa Rica.

The arrangement of the genera is in accordance with the Engler and Prantl system of classification.

Malaxis nana *C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba nana, epiphytica. Caulis brevis, inferne bulbosus, prope medium bifoliatus. Folia inaequalia, ovata. Inflorescentia umbelliformis. Flores pro planta magni. Perianthii partes late patentis. Sepala anguste triangulari-lanceolata, perlonge acuminata; lateralia obliqua. Petala triangulari-lineararia. Labellum triangulari-ovatum vel ovato-lanceolatum, longe acuminatum, paene planum. Columna minuta.

Plant dwarf, up to 6.5 cm. high to the tip of the largest erect leaf. Roots fibrous, lanuginose. Stem about 2 cm. long, bulbose-thickened at the base, clothed below with two imbricating sheaths and with the sheathing petioles of the leaves. Leaves two, about opposite, erect or widely spreading, very unequal in size, sessile except for the long-sheathing base, broadly ovate, acute, in the dried plant membranaceous with a prominently carinate mid-

nerve, the larger one about 4.6 cm. long and 2.65 mm. wide. Peduncle (above the leaves) arcuate, about 1.7 cm. long, striate-angulate especially above. Inflorescence umbelliform. Floral bracts triangular-lanceolate, acuminate, up to about 4 mm. long. Pedicels numerous, very slender, with the ovary up to about 1.4 cm. long, narrowly several-winged above. Flowers large for the plant. Perianth segments widely spreading. Sepals and petals membranaceous. Dorsal sepal narrowly triangular-lanceolate, gradually long-acuminate, up to 7.6 mm. long and 1.25 mm. wide near the base, indistinctly 3-nerved below. Lateral sepals asymmetrically triangular-lanceolate, long-acuminate with conduplicate sides above forming a curved apex, up to 8 mm. long and 1.6 mm. wide near the base, 4-nerved below. Petals triangular-linear, long-acuminate, 1-nerved, up to 6 mm. long and 0.5 mm. wide at the base. Lip ovate-lanceolate with the upper third rather abruptly long-acuminate, up to 6.4 mm. long and 2.55 mm. wide near the rounded base, 3-nerved in the lower portion. Column very short and stout, about 1.1 mm. long.

In another collection, *Brenes (131) 1334*, both leaves are spreading, the larger one being about 4.2 cm. long and 2.2 cm. wide. The peduncle is merely flexuous. Dorsal sepal about 6 mm. long and 1.25 mm. wide near the base. Lateral sepals about 6.1 mm. long and 1.2 mm. wide, 3-nerved below. Petals 6 mm. long, about 0.5 mm. wide at the base. Lip about 5.1 mm. long and 2.1 mm. wide near the base, long-acuminate above.

Malaxis nana is distinct from all Middle American species of the genus with regard to its congested habit. It differs from *M. corymbosa* (S. Wats.) O. Ktze. in having a narrower and more gradually acuminate lip. It varies from *M. tenuis* (S. Wats.) Ames in having an umbelliform inflorescence and dissimilar basal portion of the lip.

COSTA RICA, "Bois à San Pedro de San Ramón. Epiphyte, de 7 cm. haut. Alt. 850 m. 27-VI-1925. Infl. pas plus longue que les feuilles." *A.M. Brenes (96) 1301* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 44337); "Bosquet du Cerro de San Isidro de San Ramón. Alt. 1175 m. 10-VII-1925." *Brenes (131) 1334*.