



FIGURES 9–12. **9**, *Microchilus familiaris* Ormerod. **A**, flower; **B**, flower minus tepals; **C**, **D**, labellum and spur; **E**, dorsal sepal; **F**, petal; **G**, lateral sepal; **H**, column. **10**, *Microchilus huangobioensis* Ormerod. **A**, plant; **B**, flower; **C**, petal; **D**, column; **E**, labellum and spur (cross-section of area under join arrowed). **A** drawn from AMES isotype. **11**, *Microchilus ibaguensis* Ormerod. **A**, plant; **B**, flower; **C**, dorsal sepal; **D**, petal; **E**, lateral sepal; **F**, labellum and spur (cross-section of hypochile arrowed); **G**, column. **12**, *Microchilus meridanus* Ormerod. **A**, plant; **B**, flower; **C**, flower minus tepals; **D**, dorsal sepal; **E**, petal; **F**, lateral sepal; **G**, labellum and spur. All drawn from holotype except where noted.

**Microchilus meridanus** Ormerod, *sp. nov.*  
 TYPE: VENEZUELA. Mérida: Mérida to La Azulita road, La Carbonera, 2300 m, 18 March 1969, B. & F. Oberwinkler 15124 (Holotype: M). Fig. 12.

Synonym: *Erythrodes ovata* auct. non (Lindl.)  
 Ames, Dunsterville & Garay, Venez.  
 Orch. Illustr. 3:130–131, 1965.

*Affinis M. scrotiformis* (C. Schweinf.)  
 Ormerod *sed hypochilo labello ovato-lanceolatis (non oblongis) et lobulis epichilo obovato-cuneatis (non oblongis) differt.*

Erect herb. Rhizome creeping, terete, rooting at nodes, 15.0 × 0.3–0.5 cm; internodes 2.7 cm long. Stem terete, 6-leaved, 10.8 × 0.3–0.5 cm; internodes 2.4–2.7 cm long. Leaves obliquely lanceolate, acute, 7.2–8.3 × 1.85–2.00 cm; petiole and sheath 2.0–2.2 cm long. Inflorescence pubescent, 38.8 cm long; peduncle 22.8 cm long; sheathing bracts lax, 4, lowest one subfoliose, 1.3–5.3 cm long; rachis subdensely many-flowered, 16 cm long; floral bracts ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, to 13 × 3 mm. Pedicellate ovary subcylindric, pubescent, 7 mm long. Flowers externally pubescent, color not known. Dorsal sepal oblong, obtuse, 5.8 × 2.0

mm. Lateral sepals obliquely oblong, obtuse, 6.0 × 1.7 mm. Petals ligulate-ob lanceolate, apex sublobulate, obtuse, 5.0 × 1.3 mm. Labellum spurred, trilobed, joined to column for ca. 1 mm; spur obovoid, obtuse, ca. 2.75 mm long, 1 mm wide laterally; hypochile ovate-lanceolate, ca. 3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide basally, ca. 1.2 mm wide apically; epichile papillose-pubescent, 1.0–1.2 × 3.6 mm, lobules unequal, cuneate to cuneate-obovate, truncate to subtruncate-obtuse, 1 mm wide. Column without pollinarium ca. 2.7 mm long.

**Distribution:** Venezuela.

This species is quite similar to the Colombian *Microchilus scrotiformis* (C. Schweinf.) Ormerod, but a critical comparison with material (an isotype and E. P. Killip & A. C. Smith 19287) of the latter at AMES reveals substantial differences. In *M. meridanus* the dorsal sepal is oblong (not oblong-lanceolate), the labellum hypochile is ovate-lanceolate (not oblong) and the cuneate-obovate epichile lobules spread almost at right angles (vs. oblong, subfalcate, obtuse lobules). I have referred the plant identified as *Erythrodes ovata* by Dunsterville and Garay (1965) here though it differs in having slightly broader (to 3 cm wide) leaves and supposedly obliquely truncate petals.