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A NEW OCTOMERIA FROM SPANISH HONDURAS

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AMONG ORCHIDS recently collected in Honduras by Mr. J. B. Edwards a new species of *Octomeria* has been recognized. There are no close allies of this species among the *Octomerias* recorded as natives of Central America. It is in habit similar to the Brazilian *O. brevifolia* Cogn. from which it differs in the size and form of the labellum. From dried specimens it appears to belong to the section of the genus characterized by semiterete leaves.

Octomeria hondurensis *Ames, sp. nov.* Herba epiphytica, parva, caespitosa, caulibus gracilibus teretiusculis. Folium subcylindraceum, leviter arcuatum, valde carnosum. Flores satis numerosi, densiusculi, fasciculati. Sepala oblongo-lanceolata, subacuta, trinervia. Petala similia. Labellum distincte trilobatum; lobis lateralibus erectis; lobo medio oblongo, apice tridentato; disco prope basim bicarinato. Columna generis.

Epiphytic herb about 10 cm. high. Stems caespitose, terete, 8-9 cm. long, several-jointed, with fibrous remains of sheaths adhering near the base, monophyllous, about 1 mm. in diameter when dried. Leaf about 2.5 cm. long, about 1 mm. in diameter, semiterete, acute, lightly sul-

OCTOMERIA
Hondurensis
Ames



cate above, much exceeding the inflorescence. Peduncles 5 mm. long, fasciculate, in the axil of the leaf, subtended by closely appressed sheaths. Flowers opening in succession, only one present at a time. Lateral sepals spreading, 4.5 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, oblong-lanceolate, acute or subacute, 3-nerved. Dorsal sepal similar. Petals 4 mm. long, 1.5 mm. wide, oblong-lanceolate, subacute, 3-nerved. Labellum 3 mm. long, 3-lobed; lateral lobes 1.5 mm. long, .5 mm. wide, erect and porrect, falcate, subacute or obtuse; middle lobe 2 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, quadrate-oblong, tridentate at the apex with the lateral teeth rounded and the middle one acute; disc bicarinate at base. Column produced at base forming a distinct foot, about 1.5 mm. long,

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Cortez, El Jaral, Lake Yojoa. Epiphyte in dense tropical forest, 2,000 feet altitude. Sepals, petals and lip lemon yellow: column white. October 29, 1932. *J. B. Edwards 304*. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 39043).

ILLUSTRATION: Plant drawn natural size from dried specimens. Flower much enlarged (at right). Labellum much enlarged (at left).