

A NEW SPECIES OF OCTOMERIA
FROM MT. RORAIMA

BY
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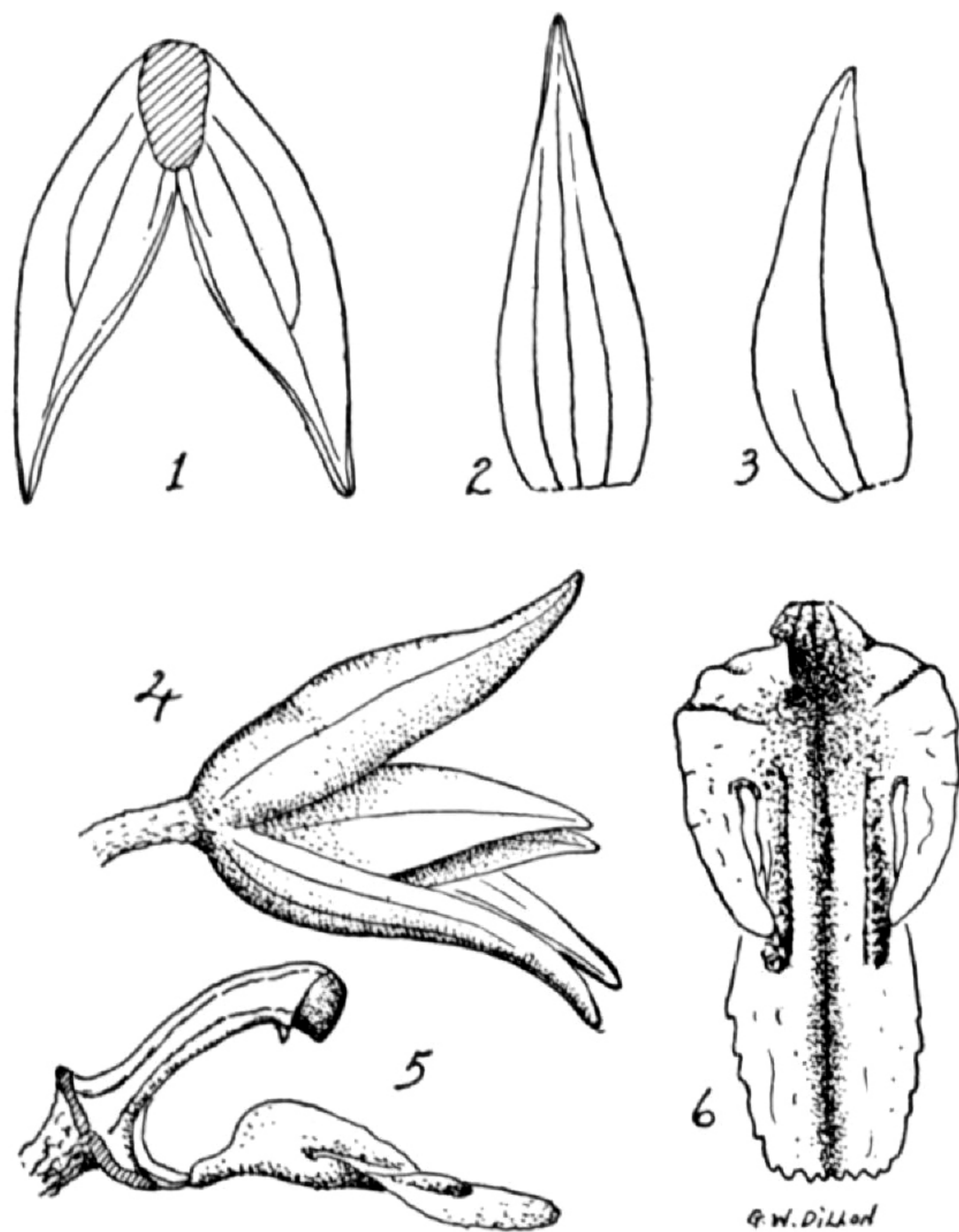
THE orchid collection made by G. H. H. Tate on Mount Roraima in 1927 contained, among several unusual plants, the following new species of Octomeria.

Octomeria monticola *C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba parvula, caespitosa. Radices fibrosae, glabrae. Caules dense caespitosi, pluriarticulati, apice monophylli. Folium erectum, ovato-lanceolatum vel lineari-lanceolatum, sessile, valde coriaceum. Inflorescentiae caulis apice fasciculatae, pauciflorae. Flores parvi, campanulati, membranacei. Sepala lanceolata vel ovato-lanceolata, acuminata, trinervia. Petala oblique lanceolata, acuminata. Labellum multo minus, trilobatum cum lobis lateralibus erectis, in circuitu oblongo-ovatum; lobi laterales porrecti, falcato-oblongi, apice rotundati; lobus medius ovato-quadratus, apice truncato pluridentatus, marginibus dentatis. Columna basi incrassata.

Plant small, caespitose, up to about 15 cm. tall to the tip of the erect leaf. Roots fibrous, glabrous, numerous. Secondary stems congested, up to about 10.5 cm. high, about 3- to 5-jointed, with the lower joints approximate and the uppermost internode the largest, mostly concealed by close tubular sheaths; the joints are marked by conspicuous dark bands. Leaf apical, erect, ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, minutely tridenticulate at the obtuse apex, sessile with a cuneate base, up to 5.4 cm. long and about 1.1 cm. wide, rigid and coriaceous in the dried specimen with sulcate mid-nerve and revolute margins. Inflorescences fascicled at the apex of the stem, each one apparently several-flowered with the abbreviated 1-flowered peduncle mostly concealed by scarious imbricating sheaths. Flowers small, membra-

ceous. Sepals lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, 3-nerved. Dorsal sepal up to about 6 mm. long and 2 mm. wide, concave. Lateral sepals up to about 5.8 mm. long and 1.6 mm. wide, lightly oblique, concave. Petals obliquely lanceolate, acuminate, 2- to 3-nerved at the base, up to about 5.1 mm. long and 1.8 mm. wide. Lip much smaller, 3-lobed near the base with the lateral lobes erect and parallel in natural position, about 2.6 mm. long; when expanded the lamina is oblong-ovate with a broadly cuneate base; lateral lobes falcate-oblong, lightly incurved, rounded at the apex; mid-lobe ovate-quadrate, about 1.7 mm. long, broadly truncate with a pluridentate apex,



1, lateral sepals, magnified about 5 times. 2, dorsal sepal, magnified about 5 times. 3, petal, magnified 5 times. 4, flower from the side, magnified about 5 times. 5, column and lip, magnified about 10 times. 6, lip, magnified about 15 times.

coarsely dentate on each side; disc with a thickened mid-nerve and a pair of low keels extending from the base of the lateral lobes almost to the middle of the mid-lobe. Column lightly arcuate, dilated below, up to about 2 mm. long. Anther hemispherical, incumbent, opercular, 2-celled.

There appear to be no near allies of this species. Distinctive features are the small sessile leaves and the small flowers with the relatively long porrect lateral lobes and dentate mid-lobe of the lip.

BRITISH GUIANA and northern BRAZIL, summit of Mt. Roraima, flowers pinkish, November 28, 1927, *G. H. H. Tate 425* (TYPE in Herb. N. Y. Bot. Gard.; DUPLICATE TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 58323).