

CENTRAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

Oncidium Lankesteri *Ames sp. nov.* Est planta habitu *O. suavis* Lindl. pseudobulbis et foliis minor (Lankester). Pseudobulbi et folia desiderantur. Inflorescentia decemramosa, rami sex ad septemflori, patentes vel leviter ascendentes. Bracteae ramos subtendentes permagnae, arcte appressae. Bracteae inflorescentiae flores subtendentes late triangulari-ovatae, scariosae, pedicellis multo breviores. Sepala lateralia unguiculata, oblonga, undulata, valde carinata. Sepalum dorsale unguiculatum, oblongum, acutum, ecarinatum. Petala oblongo-elliptica, obtusa, vix unguiculata. Sepala petalaeque brunnea, marginibus lutea. Labellum panduratum; lobis lateralibus suborbicularibus; lobo medio obreniformi, emarginato, aureo, isthmo brunneo-maculato. Crista quinquelobata. Columna alis dolabri-formibus instructa.

Pseudobulbs and leaves as in *Oncidium suave* Lindl., but smaller. Inflorescence up to 9 dm. long, racemose-paniculate, the lateral branches up to ten, 14–19 cm. long, each branch 6–7-flowered, with the flowers 2.5–3 cm. apart. Bracts subtending the branches about 1.3 cm. long, scarious, breaking down into fibres, closely appressed. Bracts subtending the flowers about 5 mm. long, scarious, broadly triangular-ovate. Pedicels with the ovary 2–2.5 cm. long. Lateral

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sepals up to 1.4 cm. long, 4 mm. wide, undulated, brown margined with yellow, unguiculate, oblong, obtuse, strongly carinate along the median nerve. Dorsal sepal 1.2 cm. long, about 5 mm. wide, unguiculate, oblong, acute, undulate, ecarinate, colored like the lateral sepals. Petals hardly unguiculate, oblong-elliptic, obtuse, 1.4 cm. long, 5 mm. wide, undulate. Labellum 1.4 cm. long, 1 cm. wide across the base, 1.3 cm. wide across the tip, pandurate, about 4 mm. wide near the middle; lateral lobes suborbicular, 2.5 mm. wide; middle lobe broadly obreniform or transversely elliptical, emarginate, 8 mm. long, bright yellow heavily marked with brown on the isthmus. Crest basal, 5-lobed, puberulous, four of the lobes in pairs, the fifth one terminal and trilobulate, acute, porrect. (In dried specimens each member of the basal pair of lobes of the crest has a thickened lobule on its upper surface, the members of the anterior pair are affixed to the disc of the labellum and confluent with the ventral side of the trilobulate terminal lobe which is fleshy at the base and produced in front into a rostrate porrect tip.) Column 5 mm. long, with dolabriform wings.

The nearest ally of this species is *Oncidium Suttonii* Batem., which has a different crest on the labellum, somewhat smaller flowers, and the branches of the paniculate raceme shorter. In the type specimen of *Oncidium Suttonii* the larger and more characteristic inflorescence has five flowers on each branch of the raceme. In *O. Lankesteri* there are usually six or seven flowers on each branch. While it is true that the number of flowers is variable, and not a reliable guide to specific difference, it serves, with the other characters described, to make differentiation possible.

COSTA RICA, Irazu Volcano, Slopes in valley of Reventado, C. H. Lankester & Alfredo Sancho 415. Repulsively aromatic after sundown. Sepals and petals brown margined with yellow. Labellum bright yellow. 6000 feet altitude. (TYPE in Herb. Ames Nos. 23729, 23730, and 23731); Cartago, C. H. Lankester K339. (Herb. Kew.)