

Ornithocephalus numenius Toscano & Dressler **sp. nov.** TYPE: HONDURAS. Departamento Comayagua: bosque de Montaña La Choca en Cordillera de Comayagua cerca de Coyocutena, elev. 1500 m, 14 Apr. 1957, A. Molina R. 8088 (holotype: F!; isotype: EAP!). Fig. 1.

Species haec *Ornithocephalo gladiato* Hook. affinis, sed foliis angustis et longioribus, lobis calli labelli conspicuis oblongis erectis et incurvatis, rostelo longiore differt.

Ornithocephalus gladius auct. non Hook.: Hamer, *Icon. Pl. Trop.: Orchids of Nicaragua*, ser.1, 11 (4): plate. 1065. 1984.

Small, psygmoid **epiphyte**, usually hanging, 40–50 × 40–90 mm. **Roots** 1.0–1.5 mm diam., terete, flexuous, hairy, whitish. **Stem** 5–10 mm long, concealed by persistent leaf sheaths. **Leaves** 15–80 × 2–8 mm, distichous, arranged in a fan,

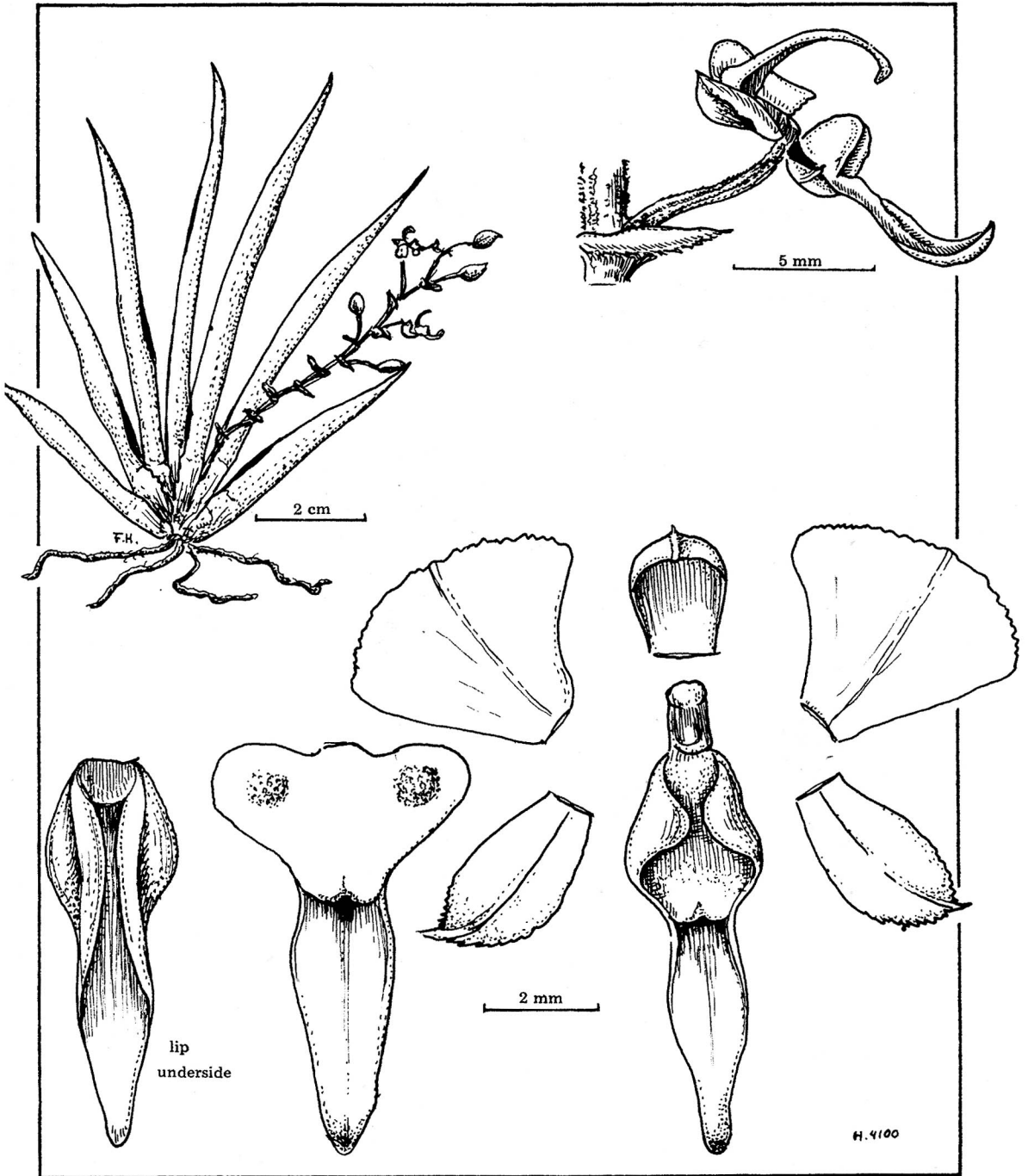


Fig. 1. *Ornithocephalus numenius* Toscano & Dressler. Copy of the illustration that appeared in *Icones Plantarum Tropicarum*, ser. 1, plate 1065, as *O. gladius* Hook.

the unifacial axis bilaterally flattened, ensiform, narrowly elliptic to sub-linear, slightly incurved toward the acute apex, articulated with a 4–10-mm-long, conduplicate, sheathing base. **Inflorescence** 30–80 mm long, laxly 4–10 flowered, axillary, racemose, erect or arching; peduncle short, 10–20 mm long, sterile bracts similar to floral bracts; rachis 15–60 mm long; floral bracts $2.0\text{--}7.0 \times 1.5\text{--}3.0$ mm, ovate-lanceolate to cordate, clasping rachis, keeled abaxially, keels and margins decurrent on rachis, ciliolate to crenulate margins, acute. **Flower** white to greenish white with dark green nerves on sepals and dark green callus. **Dorsal sepal** $2.3\text{--}5.0 \times 1.5\text{--}3.0$ mm, elliptic, obovate-lanceolate to suborbicular, abaxially with a crenulate, longitudinal keel, concave and incurved at apex, mucronate, margins entire to ciliolate-crenulate. **Lateral sepals** $1.5\text{--}4.0 \times 1.0\text{--}3.0$ mm, slightly oblique, elliptic, lanceolate to obovate-lanceolate, keeled adaxially, mucronulate, margins ciliolate-crenulate. **Petals** $3\text{--}5 \times 4\text{--}6$ mm, flabellate, broadly cuneate, rounded to subacute, margins ciliolate-crenulate. **Lip** $7.0\text{--}9.0 \times 1.2\text{--}1.8$ mm, provided with a prominent basal callus on disc; callus fleshy, adaxially with trichome-elaiophores, somewhat triangular when spread, $2\text{--}3 \times 3\text{--}6$ mm, callus lobes erect, incurved, approximate, oblong-orbicular to oblong; blade of lip ligulate-lanceolate, navicular and incurved toward the acute to subobtuse apex, margins entire, revolute toward base. **Column** $6.5\text{--}10.5$ mm long (including rostellum), the basal portion erect, $0.5\text{--}2.5$ mm long, provided with a large, narrowly ovate stigmatic cavity, prolonged at apex into a conspicuous, markedly beaked, curved rostellum $5\text{--}8$ mm long; anther $5\text{--}8$ mm, curved, strongly beaked, dilated at base and attenuate toward the subacute apex; pollinia four, in two equal pairs, obovoid; stipe $5\text{--}8$ mm long, mostly linear, slightly dilated at apex; caudicles shapeless; viscidium elliptic. **Pedicel** with **ovary** $3\text{--}7$ mm long, keeled, ciliolate-crenulate on keels. **Capsule** 8×5 mm, with low wings.

HABITAT: Epiphyte in broad-leaved, montane forest. Elev. 700–1500 m.

DISTRIBUTION: Honduras and Nicaragua.

ETYMOLOGY: *Numenius* is the genus of the curlew, a shore bird with a long, curved beak. It is used here in allusion to the long rostellum of this species, somewhat analogous to Reichenbach's use for *Ornithocephalus ibis*.

PARATYPES: HONDURAS. Department of Comayagua: Barranco near Trincheras, 30 Apr. 1947, *Williams & Molina R. 12547* (F!, EAP!); Barranco Trincheras 3 km from Montánuela, 28 Mar. 1964, *Molina R. 13670* (EAP!); Barranco de Trincheras, 16 km from Siguatepeque, 7 Apr. 1957, *Molina R. 7918* (EAP!); Barranco de Trincheras, 20 km north of Siguatepeque, 8 Apr. 1951, *Williams & Molina R. 17621* (EAP!) and same data, 17 Apr. 1951, *Williams & Molina R. 18105* (EAP!); Coyocutena, San Luis, 26 May 1932, *Edwards 173* (AMES!). Department of Santa Bárbara: El Sauce, 9 Apr. 1951, *Williams & Molina R. 17700* (EAP!). Unknown Locality: collected in 1981, *Plowden 45* (SEL!); flowered 5 Jun. 1981, *Fuchs s.n.* (SEL!—OIC6327). NICARAGUA. Unknown locality: *Heller 10121* (SEL!). Department of Matagalpa: east side of Cerro Buena Vista, flowered in February, *Heller 4274* (SEL!); Bavaria Finca, 11 Mar. 1962, *Heller 4100* (SEL!, F); Santa María de Ostumas, Cordillera Central de Nicaragua, *Heller s.n.* (SEL!, F); Buena Vista Mountain, *Heller 6952* (SEL!). Department of Jinotega: near base of Pina Blanca, flowered in April, *Heller 1664* (SEL!, description and drawings); coffee plantation between Pantasmi and Cua Rivers, flowered in April, *Heller 2294* (SEL!).

This species is closely related to *Ornithocephalus gladius* Hook., from which it may be distinguished by its proportionally narrower and longer leaves and the morphology of its prominent lip callus and conspicuously beaked rostellum. In *O. numenius* the leaves are linear to linear-lanceolate, the callus lobes on the lip are markedly erect, incurved and oblong, and the beaked rostellum proportionally longer than that of *O. gladius*. In *O. gladius* the leaves are oblanceolate and more clearly falcate, and the callus on the lip is proportionally smaller and more spreading, with narrower, arcuate lobes.

Ornithocephalus numenius was identified as *O. gladius* in herbaria and literature by several students, among these Hamer (1984) who provided a good illustration of this species, which is reproduced here. Whereas *Ornithocephalus numenius* is endemic to Mesoamerica, so far found only in Honduras and Nicaragua, *O. gladius* is a more widespread species in the northern and central parts of South America, extending to Grenada, Trinidad, and Tobago in the Lesser Antilles. South

American collections of *O. gladius* examined by the first author have come from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Peru, Surinam, and Venezuela.

Ornithocephalus numenius has been also misidentified (Toscano de Brito, unpubl.) as *O. inflexus* Lindl., *O. lankesteri* Ames or *O. tonduzii* Schltr. in herbaria and literature. In habit *O. numenius* resembles these species, which also have narrow, linear leaves. However, *O. numenius* is readily distinguished from them by its column morphology and shape of lip and lip-callus.

Of the ten species of *Ornithocephalus* now known to occur in Mesoamerica (Dressler and Toscano de Brito, in prep.), *O. inflexus* is one the most common and variable. Collections of this species have been studied from Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama. *Ornithocephalus lankesteri* and *O. tonduzii* are also restricted to Mesoamerica; the former is apparently endemic to Costa Rica, and the latter (usually cited in literature as a synonym of *O. gladius*) is so far known only from Costa Rica and Panama.