

**Centropetalum costaricense** A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba parvula. Caules dense distichophylli, saepissime curvati. Folia oblonga, acuta vel leviter apiculata, ad vaginas articulata, in siccitate saepe curvata et conduplicata, carnosae ut videtur. Racemi perbreves, axillares. Sepala similia, oblongo-lanceolata, acuta, conspicue carinata. Petala paulo angustiora. Labellum sigmoideum, oblongo-lanceolatum, acutum, in medio bicallosum. Gynostemium breve, crassum.

Plant epiphytic, small and inconspicuous. Roots relatively large and stout, fibrous, flexuous, glabrous. Stems commonly curved, up to 12 cm. long, entirely concealed by the loose imbricating leaf-sheaths. Leaves densely distichous, oblong, up to 1.6 cm. long, 4.5 mm. wide, acute or shortly apiculate, spreading, articulated, tardily deciduous, apparently fleshy in the fresh plant, minutely ciliate especially on the apical margins. Racemes very short, axillary, about 5 mm. long, apparently 3- or 4-flowered. Floral bracts distichous, infundibuliform, approximate, spreading. Sepals fleshy, rigid. Lateral sepals oblong-lanceolate or triangular-

oblong, about 4 mm. long, about 1.9 mm. wide at base, acute, 1-nerved, prominently keeled on the outer surface. Dorsal sepal similar, about 3.5 mm. long, about 1.4 mm. wide near the base. Petals oblong, similar to the sepals, about 1.15 mm. wide. Labellum sigmoid in natural position, oblong-lanceolate with a saccate base, about 3.6 mm. long in natural position, 1.8 mm. wide near the base, abruptly acute, rigidly attached to the short column-foot. Disc 3-nerved, with a pair of subpyriform calli near the middle. Column short, stout, terminating in a broad fleshy lobulate wing, 1.5 mm. long at the back. Ovary triquetrous.

This description was made from herbarium specimens.

*Centropetalum costaricense* is allied to *C. Hartwegii* (Reichb. f.) Kränzl., but it differs in having eciliate leaf-sheaths, and apparently much smaller leaves and flowers. It represents a genus new to Central America.

COSTA RICA, Province of San José, near Finca La Cima, above Los Lotes, North of El Copey, *Paul C. Standley* 42600, December 21-22, 1925. 2100-2400 meters altitude. On oak tree. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 33211.)