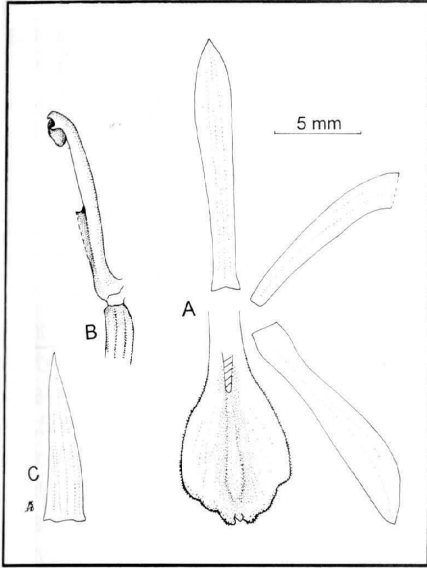


**PALMORCHIS PALUDICOLA** Dressler, sp. nov.

Herba terrestris caespitosa. Folia plura, elliptico-ovata, breviter acuminata. Inflorescentia terminalis. Pedunculi pars inferior gracilis, pars superior dense invicem pluriflora. Bractea lanceolata. Sepala oblanceolata. Labellum columnae basi alte adnatum, in laminam obovatam expansum; lamina leviter trilobata; lobi laterales rotundati, lobus intermedius subquadratis, disco callo elliptici ornatus.



***Palmorchis paludicola***  
(Mori & Anderson 129) — A. Perianth parts, spread out. — B. Column, lateral view. — C. Floral bract.

Plant 30-50 cm tall; leaves several, plicate, petioles 5.5-7 cm, basally sheathing, blades elliptic-ovate, apiculate to short-acuminate, 12-18 x 4-7 cm; inflorescence terminal, peduncle slender, 3-3.5 cm, raceme 1-1.5 cm, flowers and bracts successive; floral bracts lanceolate, 8-10 x 1.5-2 mm, heavily veined; sepals 11-12 x 2 mm, oblanceolate; petals ca. 11 mm long; lip 11-11.5 x 5.5-6 mm, cuneate-obovate, 3-lobed near apex, midlobe subquadrate, ca. 1.2 x 2 mm; callus elliptic, ca. 4 x 0.7 mm, reaching base of midlobe; column 8.5-10 mm.

**HOLOTYPE:** Costa Rica: Prov. Heredia: 1.4 km nw. of Puerto Viejo, elev. 75 m, *Raphia taedigera* palm swamp; sepals green, petals white; 24 June 1966; Mori & Anderson 129 (BM, isotype F).

Among the species with thin, obovate lips, *P. paludicola* is distinctive in the narrow callus that does not reach the apex of the lip and in the narrow, lanceolate floral bracts. When first softened, the elliptic callus appeared to have been red-orange in life. As one might expect, the palm swamp near Puerto Viejo is now largely destroyed. There are other palm swamps in the area, but as far as I know, all are surrounded by pasture and degraded by cattle. Unless there is a protected *Raphia* swamp somewhere in the area, the survival of *P. paludicola* is problematic.

Entre las especies con labelos obovados y estrechos, *P. paludicola* se reconoce por el callo angosto que no llega hasta el ápice del labelo y por las brácteas florales lanceoladas y estrechas. El callo elíptico parece ser

en flores vivas, de color rojo-naranja. Como era de esperarse, el pantano con palmas cerca de Puerto Viejo está actualmente destruído en su mayor parte. Hay otras ciénagas con palmas en la región, pero hasta donde sé, todas están rodeadas de pastizales para ganadería. A menos que se encuentre en la zona un pantano protegido con palmas de *Raphia*, la supervivencia de *P. paludicola* es un problema.