

ORCHIDACEAE

(*Louis O. Williams, Cambridge, Mass.*)

PALMORCHIS trilobulata L. O. Williams, sp. nov. (pl. 20).
Herbae terrestres, caespitosae, usque ad 35 cm. altae. Folia subchartacea, plicata, elliptica, acuta vel acuminata. Inflorescentia terminalis, pauciflora; bracteae ellipticae vel lanceolato-ovatae, acutae vel acuminatae. Sepalum dorsale spathulato-ob lanceolatum, obtusum, tri- vel quinquenervium. Sepala lateralibus spathulato-ob lanceolata, obtusa, arcuata, tri- vel quinquenervia. Petala lineari-ob lanceolata, obtusa, leviter arcuata, trinervia. Labellum ob lanceolato-flabellatum, trilobulatum; lobi laterales rotundati, obtusi; lobus medius transverse oblongus, lobos laterales paulo excedens. Columna generis.

Caespitose, terrestrial herbs up to 35 cm. tall. Stems up to about 15 cm. long and 4 mm. in diameter, bearing 3–4 leaves near the apex. Leaves subchartaceous, plicate; lamina of the mature leaves 10–22 cm. long and 3–6 cm. broad, elliptic, acute or acuminate, with 7 prominent nerves; petiole up to 7 cm. long, plicate, nervose. Inflorescence up to 7 cm. long, terminal, much exceeded by the leaves, few-flowered; rachis about 3–4 cm. long; bracts 1–1.5 cm. long and 1.5–5 mm. broad, elliptic to lanceolate-ovate, acute or acuminate. Flowers about 13 mm. long, white. Dorsal sepal about 12 mm. long and 3 mm. broad, spatulate-ob lanceolate, obtuse, 3–5-nerved. Lateral sepals 10–

12 mm. long and 3–4 mm. broad, arcuate, spatulate-oblongate, obtuse, 3–5-nerved, somewhat carinate along the mid-nerve dorsally. Petals 11–12 mm. long and about 2 mm. broad, linear-oblongate, obtuse, somewhat arcuate, 3-nerved. Lip 10–12 mm. long and about 5–6 mm. broad near the apex, oblongate-flabellate, trilobulate at the apex, the base or claw adnate to the column along its median line for about 2–3 mm., more or less enfolding the column; disc of the lip pubescent, especially so toward the base and less so toward the apex, fleshy-thickened toward the apex; lateral lobes about 1 mm. long (free portion), rounded, obtuse; mid-lobe about 1.5 mm. long, transversely oblong, blunt, slightly exceeding the lateral lobes. Column slender, arcuate, about 10 mm. long; anther operculate, incumbent; pollinia 4, exappendiculate, ceraceous or appearing so, pyriform.—COCLÉ: terrestrial, flowers pure white; region north of El Valle de Antón, trail to Las Minas, alt. about 1000 m., May 10, 1941, *Allen 2463* (Herb. Ames, TYPE); terrestrial, flowers white; El Valle de Antón and vicinity, alt. 500–700 m., July 23–27, 1935, *Seibert 459* (Herb. Missouri Bot. Gard., Herb. Field Museum, Herb. Ames).

Palmorchis trilobulata is not easily confused with any previously described species of the genus. It is, perhaps, most closely allied to *P. Powellii* (Ames) Schweinf. & Correll, from which it is easily distinguished both vegetatively and by the size of the flowers, and especially by the very different lip.

PALMORCHIS
trilobulata L. Wms.

