

SPIRANTHES Woodsonii L. O. Williams, sp. nov. Herbae palustres, terrestres, usque ad 5.5 dm. altae. Caules graciles, basi foliosi. Folia oblongo-elliptica vel ovalia, acuta vel obtusa. Sepalum dorsale lanceolatum, acuminatum. Sepala lateralia in mentum saccatum producta, lanceolata, acuminata, arcuata. Petala elliptica vel anguste oblanceolata, acuta acuminatave. Labellum lineari-oblongum, panduratum et caudatum, apice leviter expansum. Columna sectionis (§ Sarcoglottis).

Terrestrial, palustrine herbs from underground rhizomes, up to 5.5 dm. tall. Rhizome slender, rooting at most of the nodes, with scarious sheaths arising from the nodes. Stem slender, with well-developed leaves at the base which become bract-like above. Leaves 3–10 cm. long, 1.3–2.8 cm. broad, oblong-elliptic to narrowly oval, acute or obtuse, largest near the base of the stem and reduced to amplexicaul bracts above. Inflorescence up to 10 cm. long, congested in flower, becoming more open in fruit; bracts up to 4 cm. long, 1.6 cm. broad, lanceolate, acuminate, pubescent dorsally. Flowers large, similar to those of *S. acaulis*. Dorsal sepal 16.5–19 mm. long, 3.5–4 mm. broad, lanceolate, acuminate, 3–5-nerved, densely pubescent dorsally. Lateral sepals long-decurrent on the ovary, 35–40 mm. long from the apex to the base of the saccate mentum; free part 16.5–19 mm. long, 4–4.5 mm. broad, lanceolate, acuminate, arcuate, spreading, densely pubescent dorsally, 3–5-nerved. Petals 15–18 mm. long, 2–2.5 mm. broad, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblanceolate, acute or acuminate, arcuate, adherent to the dorsal sepal, pubescent on the margins, the basal half ciliate. Lip 28–32 mm. long, 6–7 mm. broad (apical lobe), linear-oblong, caudate, somewhat expanded and pandurate, with two extremely pubescent, converging callus-ridges on the terminal third, the basal part densely pubescent and the remainder, except the glabrous apex, less pubescent, glabrous below except at the base; terminal lobe transversely oval or transversely rhombic; caudae about 5 mm. long, retrorse, fleshy but flattened. Column (free part) about 8 mm. long, pubescent at the base ventrally; rostellum oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, flattened. Ovary densely pubescent.—CHIRIQUÍ: vicinity of Boquete, alt. 1200–1500 m., (flowers pale green), July 24–26, 1940, *Woodson & Schery 753* (Herb. Ames, TYPE); in swampy meadows, Finca Lérida to Boquete, alt. ca. 1300–1700 m., (flowers pale yellowish green), July 8–10, 1938, *Woodson, Allen & Seibert 1148*.

Spiranthes Woodsonii is not very closely allied to any Central American species of the genus. It belongs in the section Sarcoglottis. The species is particularly distinctive in having a creeping underground rhizome or stem instead of the usual fascicle of fleshy roots. In flower structure *Spiranthes Woodsonii* approaches *S. acaulis* (J. E. Sm.) Cogn. (*S. picta* (Anders.) Lindl.) but in detail is amply distinct.