

SCAPHYLOTTIS LIMONENSIS B. R. Adams sp. nov. S. minutiflorae Ames & Correll arcte affinis, sed habitu graciliore, bracteis inflorescentiae brevioribus et vix in fibras solutis, mento parviore, labello ovato-spatulato differt. Typus: Costa Rica, Standley & Valerio 48920 (holotypus AMES; isotypus US).

An erect-spreading epiphytic herb, 15-40 cm tall. Stems superimposed, slender, cylindrical, 1-3 mm in diam., longitudinally plurisulcate when dry, jointed at base, apically bi- or trifoliate, about 1/2 covered by imbricate sheaths when young; primary stems caespitose, 8-19 cm long; secondary stems produced 1-5 together from the apex of the stem below, commonly developing aerial roots at the base, 2.5-10 cm long; sheaths scarious, the upper 1-2 at first bearing leaflets up to 2 cm long, the remainder with triangular free apices. Leaves erect-spreading, linear to lanceolate-linear, chartaceous, unequally bilobulate at the very narrow apex, 5-10 cm long, 2.5-5 mm wide. Inflorescences terminal, initially 1-flowered, subtended by about 6 conduplicate bracts up to 4.5 mm long which conceal the short peduncle, over the following up to 3 seasons developing from basal buds rather numerous additional flowers (1-flowered branches), up to 3 appearing at a time and each subtended by about 4 further bracts. Flowers with a + inconspicuous obtuse mentum, white; pedicel and ovary partly exerted from subtending bracts, 2.8-3.5 mm long. Sepals concave, acute; dorsal sepal oblong, keeled, 2.5-2.8 mm long, 0.8-1 mm wide; lateral sepals essentially free, somewhat obliquely oblong, 2.6-2.9 mm long, 1.1-1.2 mm wide. Petals somewhat obliquely ligulate, subacute, 2.2-2.5 mm long, about 0.4 mm wide. Lip subarticulate with the column-foot, ovate-spatulate, concave, obtuse to somewhat trilobulate at the apex, somewhat fleshy-thickened in the basal third, ecallose, 2.3-2.7 mm long, about 1.4 mm wide. Column clavate, lacking wings, somewhat concave at base, with a dorsal ridge, 1.8-2 mm long, about 1 mm wide below the apex; foot almost obsolete, about 0.1 mm long; clinandrium with a short obtuse mid-tooth curved over the anther, dorsal margin repand and somewhat exceeding lateral margins; pollinia 4, subequal in size, ellipsoid to somewhat D-shaped, compressed, prominently caudiculate; stigmatic cavity transversely lunate; rostellum a transverse plate. Capsule ellipsoid, with persistent perianth, 3.5-4 mm long, + exerted from subtending bracts; pedicel 0.5-0.7 mm long.

COSTA RICA. Limón: La Lola, 10 Jan. 1957, Carlson 3295 (F); Hamburg Finca, on the Rio Reventazón below Cairo, 19 Feb. 1926, Standley & Valerio 48771 (AMES, US), 48919 (AMES) & 48920 (holotype AMES; isotype US).

So far only known from the lowlands of eastern Costa Rica, S. limonensis is undoubtedly closely allied to S. minutiflora Ames & Correll but obviously differs in its more slender stems and shorter and narrower leaves. In addition, the bracts of the inflorescences are fewer and shorter and do not break down to form the conspicuous fibrous tufts that are so characteristic of S. minutiflora. Perhaps most notably, the flower has a less well-developed mentum and an ovate-spatulate rather than distinctly 3-lobed lip.