

SCAPHYLOTTIS ROBUSTA B. R. Adams sp. nov. S. modestae (Reichb. f.) Schltr. affinis, sed habitu generaliter robustiore, floribus majoribus, labello simpliciter, alis columnae subquadratis differt. Typus: Panama, Luteyn & Wilbur 4679 (holotypus DUKE).

An erect to rather straggly epiphytic herb, 16-50 cm tall. Stems superimposed, cylindrical to narrowly fusiform, pseudobulbous, 2-6 mm in diam., longitudinally plurisulcate when dry, contracted at base into a jointed stipe, apically bifoliate, 1/3 to almost entirely covered by imbricate sheaths when young; primary stems caespitose, 4.5-23 cm long; secondary stems produced 1-2 together from the apex of the stem below, often developing aerial roots at the base, 2.5-14 cm long; sheaths scarious, the upper 1-3 often at first bearing recurved leaflets up to 13 mm long, the remainder with broadly triangular to subtruncate free apices. Leaves erect-spreading, narrowly oblong to oblong-elliptic or elliptic, subcoriaceous, unequally bilobed at the apex with the lobes commonly overlapping or the apex somewhat twisted, 4-18.5 cm long, 1.3-3.4 cm wide. Inflorescences terminal, initially 1- or more commonly 2-flowered, subtended by about 5 conduplicate bracts up to 1.8 cm long which conceal the short peduncle, over the following up to 3 seasons developing from basal buds several to numerous additional flowers (1-flowered branches), up to 6 appearing at a time and each subtended by 4 further bracts. Flowers with a + conspicuous rounded mentum, varying in colour from greenish-white to pale brownish, often suffused or veined with purple or pink; pedicel and ovary + concealed by subtending bracts, 8-9 mm long. Sepals subacute or obtuse; dorsal sepal oblong to oblong-elliptic, concave, 7-9.5 mm long, 3-4 mm wide; lateral sepals united for 1.2-1.5 mm at base, obliquely oblong-elliptic to ovate-elliptic, 7-10 mm long, 3.5-5 mm wide. Petals somewhat obliquely oblong-elliptic, + constricted above the middle, obtuse, somewhat fleshy-thickened at base, 6.5-8.5 mm long, 2-3.2 mm wide. Lip articulate with the column-foot, somewhat arcuate, lanceolate-oblong from a cuneate base, retuse, with erose-crenulate margins above the middle, prominently callose in the basal half, 8-9.5 mm long, 3.8-4.5 mm wide; callus oblong, with + verrucose margins, terminating in a pair of + distinct fleshy humps. Column arcuate, prominently winged above the middle, 5.5-6 mm long, 4-4.3 mm wide across the wings when spread; foot projecting downward, deeply concave, 1.2-1.5 mm long; wings subquadrate; clinandrium with irregularly dentate margins, dorsal margin greatly exceeding lateral margins, tapering to a truncate apex and curved over the anther; pollinia 4, subequal in size, + D-shaped, strongly compressed, prominently caudiculate; stigmatic cavity obovate; rostellum shortly tongue-like, decurved. Capsule ellipsoid, 9-12 mm long including a beak about 2 mm long, sessile, only the upper part exerted from subtending bracts.

PANAMA. Panamá: top of Cerro Jefe, 1 April 1972, Gentry 4869 (MO); Campo Tres, 3 mi NE of Altos de Pacora, 10 March 1973, Liesner 532 (MO); road from El Llano to Carti-Tupile, 12 mi above Pan-Am. Highway, 13 March 1973, Liesner 644 (MO) & 26-27 March 1973, Liesner 1156 (MO); Cerro Jefe, 13 Feb. 1977, C. & J. Luer 1708 (SEL); El Llano-Carti-Tupile road, 10-12 km N of Inter-Am. Highway, 9 Jan. 1975, Luteyn & Wilbur 4679 (holotype DUKE); El Llano-Carti road at El Llano, 16 Jan. 1974, Nee & Dressler 9360 (MO); El Llano-Carti road, 12 km from Pan-Am. Highway, 22 Oct. 1980, Sytsma 1744 (MO); Cerro Jefe 6 mi past Cerro Azul on road to Altos de Pacora, 19 Feb. 1981, Sytsma & D'Arcy 3693 (MO); Cerro Jefe, flowered in cultivation 6 Feb. 1980, Taylor 81 (in spirit, K); between El Llano and Carti, about 12-15 km N of El Llano, 3 March 1976, Taylor 13217 (K). San Blas: Nusagandi, El Llano-Carti road, 28 July 1984, de Nevers & Todzia 3538 (MO); Cerro Habú, trail from Rio Sidro, 18 Dec. 1980, Sytsma et al 2667 (MO); El Llano-Carti road, 14-15 mi from Pan-Am. Highway, 10 May 1981, Sytsma & Andersson 4467 (MO). Veraguas: Mts. 3.9-5 mi N of Santa Fe, 12 Dec. 1971, Gentry 2966 (MO).

S. robusta is clearly allied to S. modesta (Reichb. f.) Schltr. but mature plants tend to be substantially larger and more robust. They also have larger flowers with a simple lip and prominent subquadrate wings on the column. The smaller flowers of S. modesta have, in contrast, a distinctly 3-lobed lip and less well-developed, rounded column-wings. S. modesta has a wide distribution in northern South America and the West Indies but is not known to extend to Panama where all collections of S. robusta have so far been made.