

SCAPHYLOTTIS SESSILIFLORA B. R. Adams sp. nov. S. pulchellae (Schltr.) L. O. Williams arcte affinis, sed partibus apicalibus caulium non pseudobulbosis, ramis inflorescentiae subsessilibus et semper unifloris, sepalis et petalis longioribus et valde acuminatis differt. Typus: Costa Rica, Standley 33080 (holotypus US; isotypus AMES).

An erect to straggly or pendent epiphytic herb, 40-90 cm tall or up to 120 cm long. Stems superimposed, cylindrical, jointed, 1-4.5 mm in diam., at least the uppermost internode (normally the longest) longitudinally plurisulcate-wrinkled when dry, commonly somewhat narrowed in the lower 1/2-2/3 but not obviously stipitate, apically bifoliate, entirely covered by imbricate sheaths when young; primary stems caespitose, 17-58 cm long; secondary stems produced 1-6(-12) together from the apex of the stem below, often developing aerial roots at the base, 2-17 cm long; sheaths scarious, the upper 1-2 at first commonly bearing leaflets up to 1.8 cm long, the remainder with triangular free apices. Leaves erect to erect-spreading, linear-lanceolate to linear, chartaceous, unequally bilobulate at the very narrow apex, 8-21 cm long, 4-13 mm wide. Inflorescences terminal, initially 1-flowered, subtended by 2 conduplicate bracts up to 2.5 cm long which conceal the 3-5 mm long peduncle, over the following 2 seasons frequently developing from basal buds 1-few additional flowers (1-flowered branches), 1 or 2 appearing at a time and each subtended by several further bracts. Flowers with an inconspicuous obtuse mentum, whitish, pale green or yellowish, often tinged with dark red; pedicel and ovary long-exserted from subtending bracts, 2-5 cm long. Sepals 17.5-20 mm long, 4-4.5 mm wide; dorsal sepal narrowly lanceolate, concave, long-acuminate; lateral sepals united for about 1 mm at base, narrowly and obliquely lanceolate, acuminate. Petals lanceolate, acuminate, 16.5-19 mm long, 5.5-6.5 mm wide. Lip articulate with the column-foot, + sessile, oblong-obovate, keeled, obtuse, apiculate, rounded-subcordate at base, slightly decurved above the base, provided in the lower third with a pair of parallel callose ridges which form the margins of a central channel, 1.4-1.6 cm long, 8-8.5 mm wide. Column arcuate, lacking wings, 7-7.5 mm long, about 1.7 mm wide below the apex; foot projecting downward, deeply concave, about 1.5 mm long; clinandrium with an acute mid-tooth curved over the anther, lateral margins broadly rounded; pollinia 6; stigmatic cavity obovate-elliptic, the margins raised and on the lower side forming a small rounded tooth; rostellum tongue-like, decurved. Capsule ellipsoid, 2.3-3 cm long, exserted from subtending bracts; pedicel 1.3-1.6 cm long.

COSTA RICA. Alajuela: La Palma de San Ramon, 26 July 1924, Brenes 929 (NY) & 26 Aug. 1924, Brenes 1024 (NY) & 27 Aug. 1925, Brenes (230)1418 (F). Cartago: Cerro de La Carpintera, Feb 1924, Standley 34475 (AMES, US), 35557 (AMES, US), 35580 (AMES, US) & 35604 (AMES, US). Guanacaste: Parque Nacional Rincon de la Vieja, SE slopes of Volcan Santa Maria, above Estacion Hacienda Santa Maria, 27-28 Jan. 1983, Davidse et al 23408 (MO). Heredia: Yerba Buena, NE of San Isidro, 22, 28 Feb. 1926, Standley & Valerio 49103 (AMES, US), 49138 (AMES), 50203 (AMES, US) & 50238 (AMES, US); Cerro de Las Lajas, N of San Isidro, 7 March 1926, Standley & Valerio 51480 (AMES, US). San José: La Palma, 3 Feb 1924, Standley 33080 (holotype US; isotype AMES) & 17 March 1924, Standley 38259 (AMES, US); Zurqui, 13 Feb. 1926, Standley & Valerio 48067 (AMES, US) & 48094 (AMES, US).

Although rather numerous collections of this species have lain in herbaria for over 50 years, its distinctness has remained unrecognised due to confusion with S. pulchella (Schltr.) L. O. Williams. It is readily separated by its longer and markedly acuminate sepals and petals and by the very short inflorescence

branches which are concealed by subtending bracts and always 1-flowered. In S. pulchella the inflorescence branches are much longer, exserted from subtending bracts and not infrequently 2-flowered. When not flowering, the two species are usually distinguishable by the upper 1-2 internodes of the stems which tend to be more or less pseudobulbous in S. pulchella but not in S. sessiliflora.

Somewhat more widely distributed in Costa Rica than S. pulchella but, unlike that species, not apparently extending to Panama.