

SCAPHYLOTTIS TRILOBA B. R. Adams sp. nov. a congeneris labellilobis lateralibus magnis triangularibus et tertio basali unguis subtus plicato manifeste distinguenda. Typus: Colombia, Dodson & Hills 3128 (holotypus SEL).

An erect-spreading to straggly probably epiphytic herb, up to 1 m long. Stems superimposed, flexible, cylindrical, 1.5-3.5 mm in diam., slightly compressed above, longitudinally plurisulcate when dry, somewhat narrowed and jointed below the middle but not obviously stipitate, apically bifoliate, 1/2-3/4 covered by imbricate sheaths when young; primary stems 20-40 cm long; secondary stems produced 1-4 together from the apex of the stem below, often developing aerial roots at the base, 5-22 cm long; sheaths becoming scarious, the upper 1-3 at first bearing leaflets up to 2 cm long, the remainder with triangular free apices. Leaves erect-spreading, linear-lanceolate to linear, subcoriaceous, unequally bilobulate at the apex, 7-14 cm long, 5-11.5 mm wide. Inflorescences terminal, initially 1-flowered, subtended by 4 conduplicate bracts up to 2 cm long which conceal the 7-10 mm long peduncle, over the following season sometimes developing from a basal bud a second flower (1-flowered branch) subtended by several further bracts. Flowers with an inconspicuous obtuse mentum, often nutant; sepals and petals greenish or yellowish; lip white, often marked with purple in the centre; pedicel and ovary long exerted from subtending bracts, 1.5-1.8 cm long. Sepals 11-11.5 mm long, acute; dorsal sepal narrowly oblong, 2.7-3.2 mm wide; lateral sepals united for about 1 mm at base, obliquely oblong, adjacent margins somewhat dilated in the lower third, 3.3-3.5 mm wide. Petals somewhat obliquely ligulate, rounded at the apex, 10.5-11 mm long, 1.5-1.7 mm wide. Lip subarticulate with the column-foot, with a well-developed claw, prominently 3-lobed above the middle, 11-11.5 mm long, 6-7 mm wide; claw fleshy-thickened, markedly geniculate with the basal third folded under the rest of the lip, bearing a pair of parallel keel-like calli running from near the base to between the lateral lobes; lateral lobes triangular, somewhat antrorse; mid-lobe strongly decurved, subquadrate, retuse, with crenulate margins. Column rather slender, winged below the apex, 9-9.5 mm long, 3.2-3.5 mm wide across the wings when spread; foot projecting forward, strongly concave, 3-3.5 mm long; wings small, rounded-triangular; clinandrium with an acute mid-tooth curved over the anther, dorsal margin

somewhat exceeding lateral margins; pollinia 4, subequal in size, D-shaped, strongly compressed, prominently caudiculate; stigmatic cavity broadly obovate; rostellum tongue-like, decurved. Capsule not seen.

COLOMBIA. El Valle: km 54 Cali-Buenaventura (old road), 20 June 1965, Dodson & Hills 3128 (holotype SEL); km 46 Cali-Buenaventura, 1 July 1965, Dodson & Hills 3203 (SEL). Without locality, cultivated at La Ceja by the Robledos, 22 Jan. 1978, Luer 2802 (SEL) & 24 Oct. 1979, Luer 4323 (SEL).

A very distinctive species perhaps most closely related to *S. bilineata* (Reichb. f.) Schltr. and *S. panamensis*. The form of the lip, with its large triangular lateral lobes and basal third of the claw folded beneath the remainder, is unique in the genus. So far *S. triloba* is known from the wild by only two collections, both from the same area of south-central Colombia. It has also been found in cultivation at La Ceja which is in Dept. Antioquia, some 300 km to the north. The fact that such a large plant with fairly conspicuous flowers is not represented by more collections suggests that it is either very rare or extremely local in occurrence.