

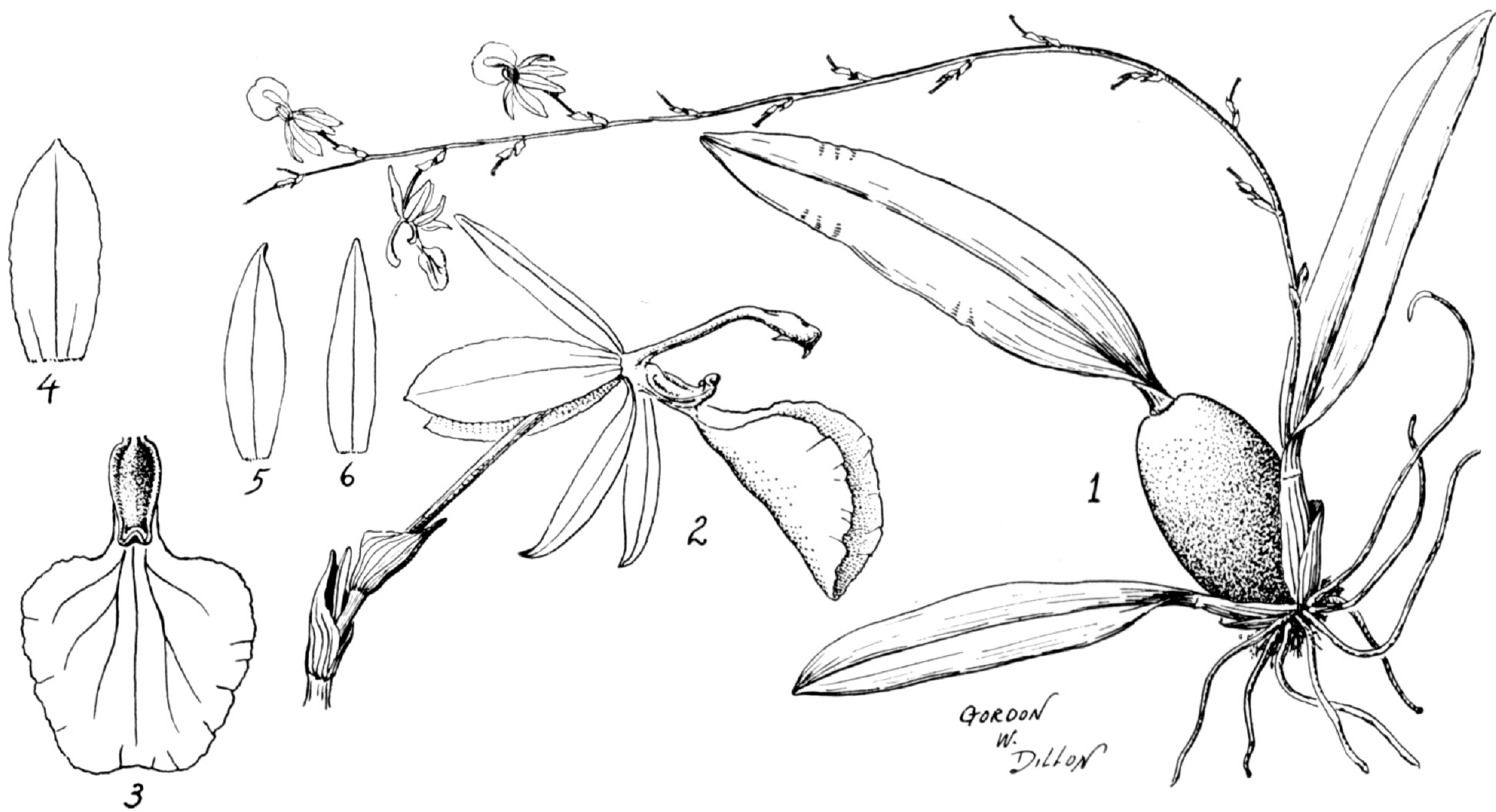
**SIGMATOSTALIX abortiva** L. O. Williams, sp. nov. (pl. 34, figs. 1-6). Herbae epiphyticae, caespitosae, parvae, usque ad 12 cm. altae. Pseudobulbi ancipites, oblongi vel ovati, unifoliati. Folia elliptica vel lanceolata, acuta, subcoriacea. Inflorescentia erecta, folia multo excedens, racemosa. Sepala lanceolata, acuta, uninervia. Petala quam sepala latiora, late lanceolata, acuta, uninervia vel basi obscure trinervia. Labellum simplex, unguiculatum; lamina suborbicularis, truncata; unguis callo cucullato ornatus. Columna generis.

Small, caespitose, epiphytic herbs up to 12 cm. tall. Pseudobulbs 1-2 cm. long, 3-10 mm. broad, oblong to ovate, ancipitous, vernicose, unifoliate at the apex, usually with one small subtending leaf on each edge of the pseudobulb. Leaves 2.5-4 cm. long, 4-10 mm. broad, elliptic-lanceolate, acute, subcoriaceous. Inflorescence lateral, in a loose raceme much exceeding the leaves in length; bracts at the base of the pedicel sometimes bifurcate, bracts on the pedicel two, the lower one with a sterile ligule in its axil and the upper one fertile. Sepals about 3.2 mm. long and 0.8-1 mm. broad, lanceolate, acute, 1-nerved, obscurely apiculate. Petals about 3.2 mm. long and 1.3 mm. broad, broadly oblanceolate, acute, 1-nerved or obscurely 3-nerved at the base, obscurely apiculate. Lip about 5 mm. long and 3.5 mm. broad; the lamina about 3.3 mm. long, suborbicular, slightly retuse, truncate; the claw about 1.8 mm. long, slender, covered by a large cucullate callus. Column of the genus, about 3 mm. long.—CANAL ZONE: Quebrada Lopez, 30 m. alt., sepals and petals yellow, lip white, Feb. 11, 1940, *Allen 2121* (Herb. Missouri Bot. Gard., TYPE).

*Sigmatostalix abortiva* is more closely allied to *S. guatemalensis* Schltr. than to any other species. It is similar in habit, type of inflorescence and general structure of the flower but differs in most all floral details.

The inflorescence is an interesting one. It can be described as a raceme but on examination of the presumed pedicel of each flower two bracts are found. The lower bract has a ligule in its axil and the upper one subtends the flower. It is probable that the ligule represents an aborted flower (hence the specific name) and that the whole inflorescence is a reduced panicle; perhaps reduced from a type similar to that found in *Sigmatostalix hymenantha* Schltr. or *S. racemifera* L. Wms.

The inflorescence of *Sigmatostalix guatemalensis* Schltr. is similar to that of *S. abortiva* except for the greater number of bracts. There is no indication, on the fifteen specimens in the Ames Herbarium, that more than one flower is borne from each set of bracts. However in Rolfe's plate of *S. costaricensis* Rolfe (Bot. Mag. 145: t. 8825. 1919), which is a synonym of *S. guatemalensis*, such a condition is shown.



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