

*Sigmatostalix adamsii* Dodson, sp. nov.

(Plate 15:C).

*Sigmatostalici gramineae* (Poepp. & Endl.) Rchb. f. affinis, sed floribus albis multiparvioribusque, et inflorescentia expansa notabilis.

Plant small, epiphytic, with a short rhizome. Pseudobulbs aggregated, ovate, strongly compressed, 3 cm long, 1.3 cm wide, unifoliate at the apex, clothed below by several pairs of imbricating, leaf-bearing sheaths. Leaves linear, acute and obliquely emarginate at the apex, 8-17 cm long, 0.8 cm wide. Inflorescence basal in the axils of the sheaths, paniculate, 10-20 cm long, the secondary branches to 8 cm long, each flower arising singly from an abbreviated, erect branch; flowers very small for the genus; sepals and petals membranaceous, white, reflexed, cuneate, 2 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; lip 2 mm long, the lamina ovate, 1 mm long, recurved, the disc at the base with a transversely concave callus, 1 mm wide, 1.2 mm long, yellow inside, bilobed at the apex; column slender, 1 mm long, with a quadrate auricle on each side of the stigma.

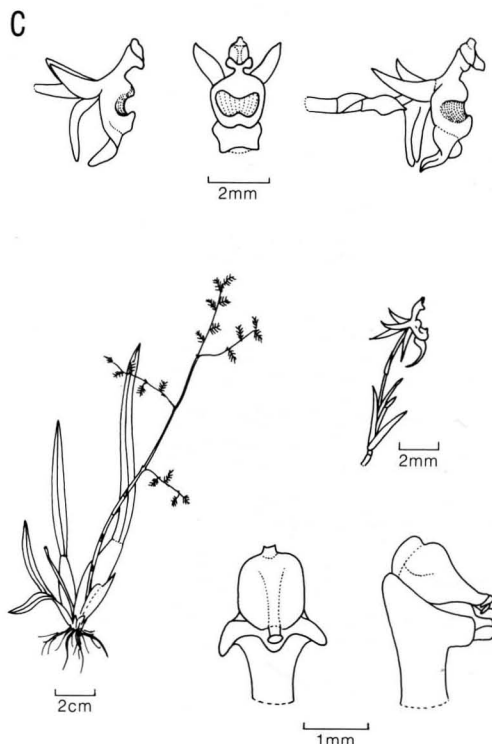
ETYMOLOGY: Named for Dr. Ralph Adams of Florida Atlantic University who helped in its collection.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: Very common in orange trees in the city of Santo Domingo, alt. 650 m, 15 June 1967, *C. H. Dodson, N. Williams & R. Adams 3705* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: Epiphytic in citrus trees between Alluriquin and Tinalandia, east of Santo Domingo, alt. 900 m, 13 Mar. 1976, *C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 856* (SEL); same region, 15 Aug. 1975, *C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 529* (SEL); Santo Domingo, 26 Oct. 1961, *C. H. Dodson & L. B. Thien 1128* (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Western Ecuador.

This species is probably the least significant member of the genus. It is unusual for the relatively large, much ramified, paniculate inflorescence with tiny white flowers. Considering its present day abundance, it is surprising that this species was not collected and described by early orchid collectors passing through Santo Domingo. Perhaps it was rare in the past, but the presence of numerous moss-covered orange trees has provided an appropriate habitat. It is very rare in nearby mature forests.



*Sigmatostalix adamsii*