AN ADDITION TO THE GENUS TELIPOGON FROM COSTA RICA

BY
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A small collection of orchids from Costa Rica recently sent to us for determination contained a Telipogon which is apparently undescribed. It seems to be unique among the Central American species of the genus by reason of its dwarf vegetative structure and relatively large flower.

Telipogon ampliflorus C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica, nana cum flore magno. Caulis brevis, inferne cum radicibus numerosis flexuosis, superne cum foliis nonnullis approximatis lanceolato-ellipticis. Scapus uni- vel biflorus. Sepala late lanceolata, acuminata, trinervia. Petala multo majora, subquadrato-rhombica, multinervia, acuta. Labellum transverse rhombico-ovatum, multinervium. Columna brevissima, postice setosa.

Plant dwarf but with a large flower, about 11 cm. tall including the flower. Stem short, arcuate, producing in the lower portion numerous stout flexuous roots and in the upper portion several approximate leaves. Leaves seven, lanceolate-elliptic, up to about 5.6 cm. long and 1 cm. wide (some blades very small), acute, narrowed to a sessile clasping base. Scapes axillary, apparently 1- or 2-flowered, about 5–6 cm. long. Flower large and showy with widely spreading perianth segments. Dorsal sepal broadly lanceolate, concave below, about 1.83 cm. long and 7.6 mm. wide, acuminate, mucronate with a subapical keel on the outer surface, 3-nerved. Lateral sepals similar, broadly lanceolate, concave below, about 1.83 cm. long and 6.4 mm. wide, acuminate, dorsally carinate

near the apex, 3-nerved, slightly oblique. Petals subquadrate-rhombic, about 3.5 cm. long and 2.9 cm. wide in the middle, abruptly acute, cuneate toward the base, 15-nerved near the middle, with very obscure reticulations, setose near the base inside, very minutely papillose-ciliolate especially toward the base. Lip transversely rhombic-ovate, acute with a short dorsal keel, about 2.6 cm. long and 3.4 cm. wide below the middle, 23-nerved below the middle, minutely papillose below the middle, very minutely cellular-ciliolate especially near the base. Column very short and broad, protuberant on the disc of the lip, finely short-pubescent in front, long-setose in the rear (agglutinated in this specimen). Pollinia four, in two pairs, complanate-obovoid at the broadened apex of a long linear stipe. Viscid disc linear-oblong, circinnate.

Telipogon ampliforus has apparently no near allies in Central America, but there are several similar species in South America. It differs from the Ecuadorian T.aureus Lindl. in having broader leaves, dissimilar transversely ovate lip, and many more nerves in the petals and lip. It varies from the Colombian T.dubius Reichb.f. (which was described from a flower only) in having a larger flower with broader petals and lip, and purplish (not white) hairs on the column. It diverges from the Peruvian T. Papilio Reichb.f. (apparently a very nearly allied species) in having considerably larger flowers and differently proportioned lip.

Costa Rica: Province of San José, northeast of El Copey. In dense oak and bamboo forest near Laguna de la Escuadra. At 2000-2200 meters altitude. On tree. Flowers pale yellow with dark purple veins. December 16, 1925. Paul C. Standley 42021 (Type in U. S. Nat. Herb. No. 1309567).