Ligeophila Garay

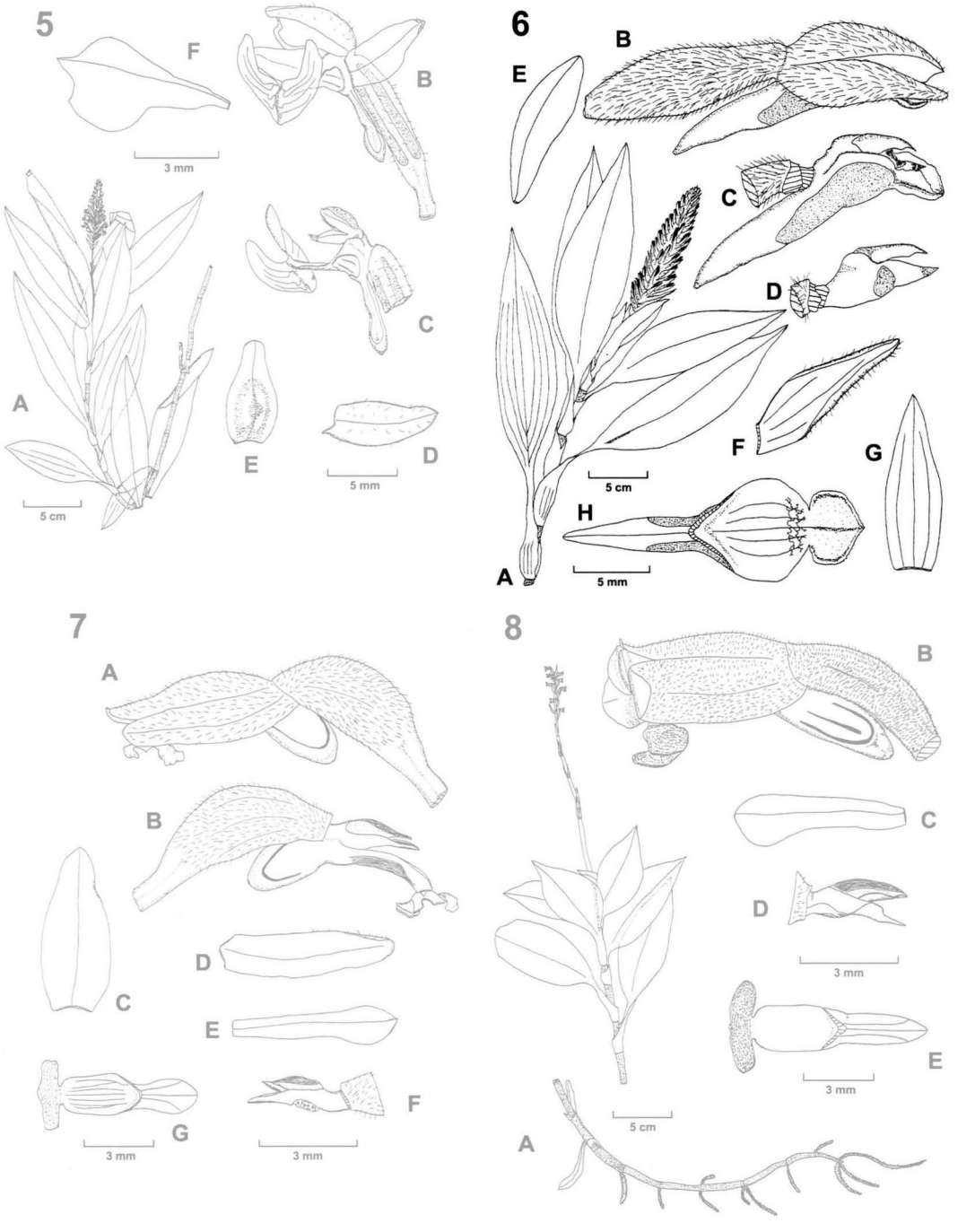
This is a genus of 11 species, to which is added here another 2 species. One of the most unusual features of *Ligeophila* is found in the column, which has an articulate rostellum, a character not found in other Neotropical Goodyerinae.

I am not sure, however, that *Ligeophila grandis* described below has this feature. The type material of *L. grandis,* however, has an inflorescence bearing only almost-mature flower buds. Thus the apparent lack of an articulate rostellum in *L. grandis* may be merely an artifact linked to the floral immaturity.

Ligeophila grandis Ormerod, *sp. nov.* TYPE: PANAMA. Bajo Mono to Robalo trail, 2135 m, 24 July 1947, *P. H. Allen 4857* (Holotype: AMES; Isotype: US [*n.v.*]). Fig. 6.

E omnia species generis calcar conicum (non cylindricis ad clavatis) et epichilio sessilis (non unguiculatis) differt.

Erect epiphytic herb. Stem including the rhizome terete, 44.5 × 0.55–1.00 cm, laxly



FIGURES 5–8. **5**, *Ligeophila chinimensis* Ormerod. A, plant; B, flower; C, flower minus tepals; D, lateral sepal; E, dorsal sepal inside; F, petal (drawn from holotype). **6**, *Ligeophila grandis* Ormerod. A, plant; B, flower; C, flower minus tepals; D, column; E, petal; F, lateral sepal; G, dorsal sepal; H, labellum and spur (drawn from holotype). **7**, *Microchilus brunnescens* Ormerod. A, flower; B, flower minus tepals; C, dorsal sepal; D, lateral sepal; E, petal; F, column; G, labellum and spur (drawn from holotype). **8**, *Microchilus campanulatus* Ormerod. A, plant (apex of inflorescence broken off); B, flower; C, petal; D, column; E, labellum and spur (drawn from holotype).

9-leaved. Leaves oblong-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, acute, thinly fleshy, 14.5–21.0 × 4.85–5.60 cm; petiole and sheath 8.0–9.3 cm long. Inflorescence pubescent, 19.7 cm long; peduncle 7.7 cm long; sheathing bracts crowded, subfoliose, acute, 6–7 × 1.6 cm; rachis densely many-flowered, 12 × 4.5 cm; floral bracts broadly lanceolate, acute, pubescent, to 1.7 × 0.6 cm. Pedicellate ovary fusiform, densely pubescent with thick hairs, 1.5 cm long. Flowers externally densely pubescent, dark green, spur white, tipped green. Dorsal sepal broadly oblong-lanceolate, acute, 10.8 × 4 mm. Lateral sepals obliquely ovate-elliptic, obtuse, 11 × 4 mm. Petals obliquely oblong-subrhombic, subacute, 10.5 × 3 mm. Labellum spurred, trilobed; spur conical, subobtuse, 9 mm long, 2.25 mm wide laterally; hypochile suborbicular-trapeziform, fleshy, 4 × 7 mm, sides about 3.2 mm wide; epichile sessile, trapeziform, puffy, margins minutely irregularly erose, apex subacute, 3.5 × 5 mm. Column 7.5 mm long, the ventral half appearing to be triangular in cross section.

Distribution: Panama.

This species is the most robust taxon in *Ligeophila.* It differs from all other taxa in the genus in having flowers with a conical spur and a lip with a suborbicular-trapeziform sessile epichile. Also the column seems different from other taxa in lacking an articulate rostellum, but it also seems unique in that the ventral surface is triangular in cross section.

Species of *Ligeophila* have flowers with a cylindric to clavate spur, and the lip always has a shortly clawed rhombic-to-lunate epichile. I have already noted above in the introductory notes to the genus that the apparent lack of an articulate rostellum may be due to the immature flowers studied. The same could be said of the triangular ventral surface of the column. In the six *Ligeophila* species I have studied the column is flattish below, much like all other Goodyerinae.