

Cryptocentrum gracillimum A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba pusilla, caespitosa. Caules breves, vaginis foliorum omnino obtecti. Folia filiformia, semiteretia ut videtur. Scapi uniflori. Flores pro genere parvi. Sepala similia, lateralia basi in calcar longum connata, parte libera patenti oblonga vel lanceolata. Petala lanceolata, sepalis superata. Labellum columnae adnatum, lanceolatum. Calcar longum, gracillimum.

Plant very small for the genus, 9–10 cm. tall. Roots numerous, fibrous, flexuous, glabrous. Stems caespitose, very short, 1 cm. more or less long, entirely concealed by distichous imbricating leaf-sheaths. Leaves about five to six, approximate on the upper part of each stem; mature blades 2.7–8.75 cm. long, filiform, semiterete, channelled, about 1 mm. in diameter. Scapes basal, 1-flowered, generally shorter than the leaves, lax, mostly concealed by five to seven long tubular approximate or imbricating sheaths; uppermost sheath much the longest, 1.8–2 cm. long, enclosing the long spur and ovary. Sepals in anthesis widely spreading above, connate below into a tube, free portions with revolute margins. Lateral sepals (free portion when expanded) ligulate-oblong, about 8.1 mm. long, about 2.15 mm. wide, obtuse or acutish, 5-nerved. Dorsal sepal (free portion) oblong-lanceolate, about 8 mm. long, about 2.6 mm. wide, acute, dorsally somewhat carinate near the apex, 5-nerved. Petals lanceolate, about 8.3 mm. long (but appearing shorter than the sepals because inserted much lower down), 1.9 mm. wide below, long-acuminate, the centre traversed by three approximate nerves, the upper portion somewhat fleshy. Labellum apparently adnate to the column; lamina lanceolate, about 7.9 mm. long, 3 mm. wide below the middle, acute, its centre traversed longitudinally by three approximate nerves. Spur formed by the sepals long, slender, 1.4 cm. long, subclavate, parallel with the slightly longer ovary. Column short, stout, about 2.4 mm. long.

Cryptocentrum gracillimum is related to *C. flavum* Schltr., from Colombia, but usually has longer leaves, approximate sheaths on the peduncle, and somewhat larger flowers of different color. The very narrow leaves appear to have been terete or subterete in the living plant. There are no near Central American allies.

COSTA RICA, Pejivalle, C. H. Lankester 866, May 16, 1924. 2300 feet altitude. Flowers dull olivaceous. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 28694.)