

**Epidendrum obliquifolium** *Ames, Hubbard & Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba copiose ramosa, parva. Caules graciles, vaginis laxis infundibuliformibus maxima pro parte obtecti. Folia disticha, parva, obliqua, ovato-elliptica, crasse coriacea. Inflorescentiae perbreves, subumbellatae, pauciflorae, pedunculo spatha laxissime infundibuliformi ornato. Sepala lateralia ovato-lanceolata, acuta. Sepalum dorsale ovato-oblongum, acutum. Petala linearia, obtusa. Labellum columnae adnatum; lamina subrectangulo-oblonga, leviter bilobata, marginibus erosis; discus callis binis approximatis basi ornatus et lineis medianis tribus percursus. Columna crassa, perbrevis. Ovarium vesicula in summitate ornatum.

Plant much branched, herbaceous, up to 15 cm. tall. Roots fibrous, filiform. Stems rather slender, mostly concealed by loose infundibuliform sheaths which are dilated above and somewhat striate-rugose. Leaves distichous, obliquely ovate-elliptic, up to 4 cm. long and 11 mm. broad, acute, coriaceous when dry (apparently fleshy when living). Inflorescence short, subumbellate, about 3- or 5-flowered; peduncle below the inflorescence up to 1.5 cm. long, mostly concealed by a very loose conspicuous infundibuliform purple-blotched conduplicate spathe. Floral bracts minute and inconspicuous. Lateral sepals ovate-lanceolate, oblique at the base, about 8 mm. long and 4 mm. wide, acute. Dorsal sepal ovate-oblong, concave, about 7.1 mm. long and 3.6 mm. wide, acute. Petals linear, about 6.9 mm. long and 1.5 mm. wide, obtuse, prominently 1-nerved. Lip simple, adnate to the column, subrectangular-oblong, retuse or shallowly bilobed at apex, rounded at base, about 7 mm. long, 4.2–4.9 mm. wide, margin strongly erose; disc bicallose at base, traversed by three central parallel thickened nerves. Column very short, stout, about 3.6 mm. long. Ovary with a saccate vesicle at its very summit.

*Epidendrum obliquifolium* has no near allies among the Central American species. The general aspect of the plant suggests *E. Peperomia* Reichb.f., a South American species.

The specimen described is in young fruit and consequently the flowers are beyond their prime and difficult to interpret accurately. The species, however, is so distinct that it seems wise to describe it.

COSTA RICA, "Hda. La Esperanza (La Palma)." At 1,500 meters altitude. December 1913. *Olón Jiménez 972* (TYPE in U. S. Nat. Herb. No. 1229729.); Santa Clara de Cartago. Suspended on mossy tree trunks. At 7,000 feet altitude. December 23, 1923. *C.H. Lankester 566*; Province of Cartago, Alto de La Estrella. On tree. March 26, 27, 1924. *Paul C. Standley 39572* and *39578* (both in fruit).