

*Habenaria mediocris* Dressler, *sp. nov.*

Type: Panamá, Chiriquí: Llanos del Volcán, in rocky grassland, flowers pale green, lip yellowish: 16 July 1979, R. L. Dressler 5845 (holotype, MO).

*Planta herbacea, terrestris; foliis vaginantis, ad medium caulis leviter adscendentis, lamina elliptica vel lineari-lanceolata; bracteis caulinis ovato-lanceolatis; ovario cum pedicelo 12-13 mm longo, leviter carinato vel alato, floribus palide viridibus vel virideflavis; sepalis postico ovato, cucullato, obtuso; sepalis lateralibus obliquis, ovato-lanceolatis; petalis bipartitis, partitione posteriore falcata; labello 3-lobato, nectario clavato, 13-15 mm longo.*

Herbaceous, terrestrial, 10-20 cm tall; roots 1-1.5 mm in diameter, tubers ovoid or oblong, 12-18 x 8-10 mm; leaves 3-4 at midstem, somewhat ascending, the bases sheathing, blades elliptic to lance-linear, acute, 4-8.5 x 0.8-1.3 cm; inflorescence terminal, peduncular bracts 1-4, lanceolate, 18-50 x 3-7 mm, raceme 3-6 cm; floral bracts ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, 11-17 x 4-5 mm; ovary and pedicel 12-13 mm, ovary slightly keeled or winged; flowers pale green or yellowish green; dorsal sepal ovate, cucullate, obtuse, apiculate, 4.5-5 x 3.5-4 mm; lateral sepals asymmetrically lance-ovate, acute, apiculate, 5-6 x 2.3-2.7 mm; petals bilobed, the dorsal lobe falcate, oblong, subobtuse 4-5 x 1.3-1.5 mm; ventral lobe tapering, 2.5-3 x 0.5 mm; lip three-lobed, lateral lobes ligulate, 2.5-3 x 0.5 mm, midlobe oblong, 4 x 1.5 mm; the margins recurved; spur 13-15 mm, clavate; column ca. 2 mm.

This Panamanian plant fits Schlechter's comments quoted above. It is a medium-small, greenish-flowered plant whose most nearly distinctive feature is the presence of slight wings on the ovary, which have caused some plants to be labelled as *H. alata* Hook.,

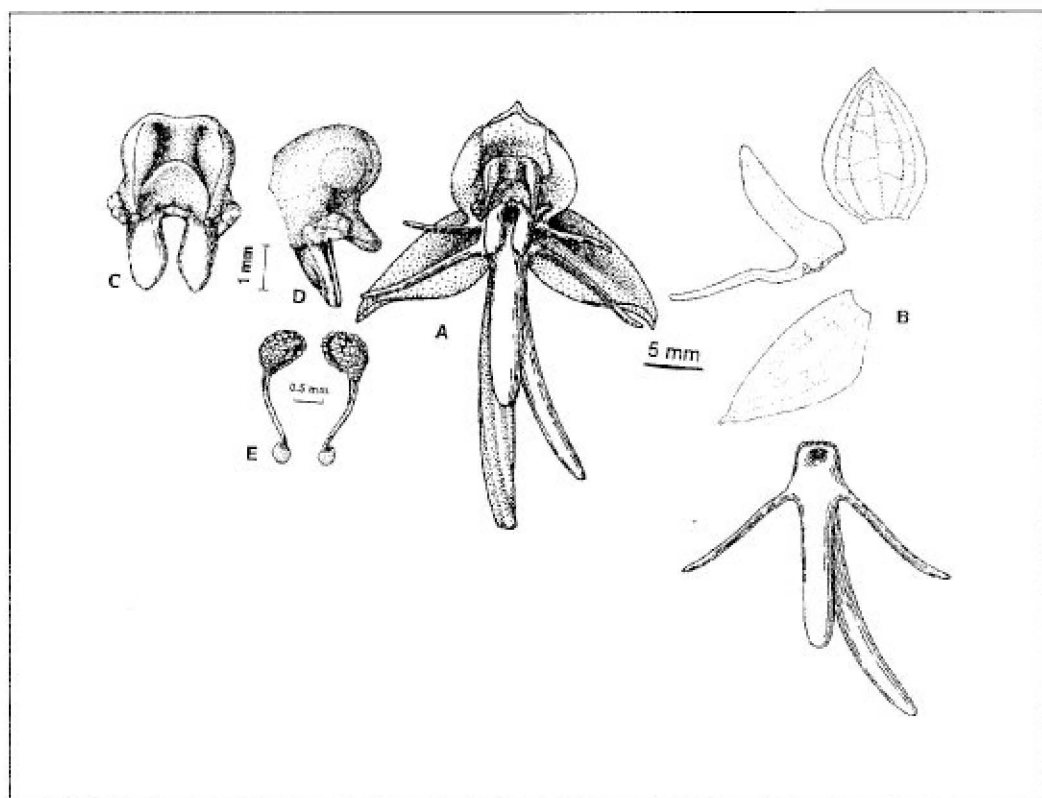


Figure 2. A, B, C, D, E. *Habenaria mediocris* (Dressler 4845). A. Flower. B. Perianth parts, flattened. C. Anther, front view. C. Anther, side view. E. Pollinaria.

a species with a simple lip. Though this species is virtually without distinctive features (thus the epithet *mediocris*), it is quite unlike any other species known in our area. It may well have an earlier name in South America, but I am unable to find one.

Paratypes: Panamá. Chiriquí: Llanos del Volcán, 1500 m, 14 Sept. 1976, *C. Luer & H. Butcher 1226* (SEL). Recent lava flow between Volcán and Bambito, elev. 1700 m, 8°48'N, 82°35'W, 24 July 1985, *G. de Nevers* with *S. Charnley 6072* (MO). Llanos Francia, alt. 3300 ft., near Boquete, 25 July 1959, *W. L. Stern, K. L. Chambers, J. D. Dwyer, J. E. Ebinger 1168* (FLAS). Veraguas, 18 km. W of Las Minas, S side of Cerro Alto Higo, 2400-3000 ft, N slope of Cerro Alto Higo (El Montoso), 7 Aug. 1978, *B. Hammel 4322* (MO).