

A NEW BLETIA FROM MEXICO

BY

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AMONG several orchids submitted by the New York Botanical Garden for determination, the following species from the Mexican state of Chiapas appears to be undescribed. Its very slender habit serves to distinguish it from all the other members of the genus. Moreover, the small flowers with shallow sinuses between the lobes of the lip differentiate it from the nearest allies, *Bletia Pott-sii* S. Wats. and *B. tuberosa* (L.) Ames.

Bletia tenuifolia Ames & Schweinfurth, *sp. nov.*
Herba gracilis. Cormus subglobosus. Folia quattuor vel plura, angustissime linearia. Scapus folia paulo superans, saepissime subpaniculatus. Flores laxi. Sepalum dorsale lanceolato-ellipticum, acutum. Sepala lateralia oblique elliptico-lanceolata, acuta. Petala oblique elliptica vel ovalia. Labellum in circuitu ovatum, prope apicem trilobatum; lobi laterales semiovati; lobus medius suborbicularis; discus quinquecarinatus. Columna generis.

Roots fibrous, coarse, flexuous, glabrous, longitudinally sulcate when dry. Rhizome apparently creeping. Corm subglobose, about 1.2 cm. long, rugose, shining, covered with the fibrous remains of sheaths. Leaves four to five in a cluster, very narrowly linear, articulated to convolute sheaths which in turn are loosely enveloped by several imbricating nervose scarious leaf-bearing sheaths; blades 15–33.5 cm. long, up to 3 mm. wide, complicate-acuminate, 3-nerved, erect-spreading. Scape up to 46 cm. high, somewhat surpassing the leaves, slender, concealed at base by three short imbricating nervose sheaths and above by about three remote appressed tubular sheaths. Rachis commonly subpaniculate with a single basal branch, up to 15 cm. long (the apical flowers in our

specimens consisting of immature crowded buds). Floral bracts lanceolate, long-acuminate, scarious, the lowermost about 5.5 mm. long. Raceme loose, flowers 1 cm. or more distant. Dorsal sepal lanceolate-elliptic, 1 cm. long, 4 mm. wide, acute, 5-nerved. Lateral sepals asymmetrically elliptic-lanceolate, about 9 mm. long, 3.8 mm. wide, acute, 5-nerved. Petals asymmetrically elliptic, about 9 mm. long, 4.5 mm. wide, narrowed to an obtuse or subacute apex, the margins of the upper half irregular, 3-nerved with the side nerves branching. Lip ovate in outline, 3-lobed near the apex, articulated to the short column-foot, 8 mm. long, 6.1 mm. wide, broadly cuneate at base; lateral lobes semiovate, 6.2 mm. long, lobulate at their rounded apex; middle lobe much smaller, suborbicular-quadrata, 2.1 mm. long and wide, shallowly retuse and apiculate, the margins strongly undulate and lobulate; disc traversed by five parallel keels which are highest in the middle of the lip and become undulate near their apex; the three middle keels extend about to the middle of the mid-lobe, the lateral keels stop below the base of the mid-lobe. Column arcuate, 7.5 mm. long (measuring the posterior portion); clinandrium 3-lobed. Anther semiglobose, 2-celled, each cell 4-chambered.



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