

A NEW SPIRANTHES [ORCHIDACEAE]

from

GUATEMALA

Louis O. Williams

Field Museum

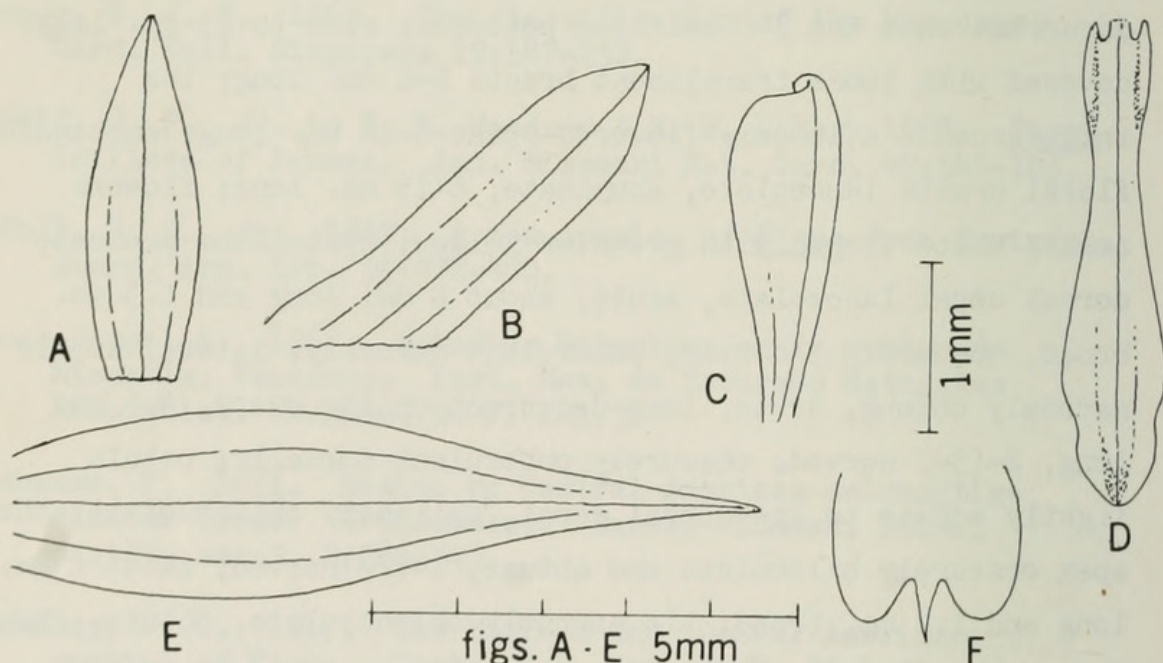
SPIRANTHES UMBRATICOLA L. Wms. sp. nov. - Plantae terrestres umbraticola foliis 2 vel pluribus e base plantarum ortis. Laminae ellipticae oblanceolatae vel oblanceolato-ovatae acuminatae; inflorescentia racemosa pauciflora, bractee lanceolatae; flores parvi albi; sepalum dorsale lanceolatum acutum obscure trinervium; sepala lateralibus anguste oblonga acuta trinervia; petala obliqua oblanceolata bilobata obtusa 1-(2-)nervia; labellum anguste oblanceolatum obtusum callosum; rostrum trilobatum.

Terrestrial plants with 2 or more basal leaves and a slender, puberulent stem 15-25 cm. long, this terminated by a 10-20-flowered spike. Leaves elliptic or oblanceolate or oblanceolate-ovate, acuminate, glabrous, thin and net-veined, petiolate, the blade 5-12 cm. long and 2-5 cm. broad and decurrent onto the 3-6 cm. long petioles; stem to 25 cm. long, covered with loose translucent bracts 2-4 cm. long; the inflorescence a loosely-flowered spike 6-12 cm. long, subtending floral bracts lanceolate, acuminate, 8-15 mm. long; flowers small, white tinged with green or yellow, cystoliths present; dorsal sepal lanceolate, acute, about 4 mm. long and 1.5 mm. broad, obscurely 3-nerved, puberulent dorsally; lateral sepals narrowly oblong, acute, long decurrent on the ovary, 5-6 mm. long, 2-(3-) nerved, obscurely puberulent dorsally; petals lightly adnate to the dorsal sepal, obliquely oblanceolate, the apex obscurely bilobulate and obtuse, 1-(2-)nerved, about 4 mm. long and 1.2 mm. broad; lip narrowly oblanceolate, obtuse, about 5.5 mm. long and 1.2 mm. broad near the apex, the base with thickened marginal calluses about 1.5 mm. long, the lamina constricted above the base and again near the apex, with obscure

callus thickenings toward the apex; column about 2 mm. long and the column-foot about 2 mm. long; rostellum trilobate, thin, about 1.2 mm. long, the mid-lobe linear.

Guatemala: flor blanca, en bosque alto, ramonal-sapotal, en camino a Uaxactún a 1 km. de Tikal, Parque Nacional, Dept. Petén, 6 enero 1969, Tún Ortíz 3 (type, F; EAP, NY, US); flowers white-yellowish, in ramonal in high forest at Macanché (Milpa Grande), Dept. Petén, Feb. 6, 1966, Contreras 5489 (F, EAP); flowers white-greenish, in acagual about 500 m. west of sawmill, Tikal, Tikal National Park, March 17, 1966, Contreras 5632 (F, EAP, MICH, US, NY).

Closely related to Spiranthes cranichoides (Griseb.) Cogn. and to S. elata (Sw.) L. C. Rich. from which it is easily distinguished by the narrowly oblanceolate lip with marginal callus thickenings, by the lobate apices of the petals, the lateral sepals long decurrent on the ovary and the column-foot as long as the column. A forest species bearing leaves at anthesis.



Spiranthes umbraticola L. Wms. - A, dorsal sepal; B, a lateral sepal; C, a petal; D, labellum; E, bract from inflorescence; F, rostellum with 1 mm. scale above.



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