

ERYTHRODES   Blume

Terrestrial herbs. Roots arising from base of stem or from internodes of rhizome. Stems erect or ascending, leafy. Leaves short-petiolate, ovate or lanceolate, usually reticulate-veined. Inflorescence a loosely or densely many-flowered spike. Flowers usually small, subsessile. Bracts small. Sepals free, erect or spreading, nearly equal. Petals adnate to dorsal sepal to form a galea. Lip slightly adnate to column, entire or lobed, sometimes with a saccate spur; spur usually with four or more calluses basally within. Column short or very short, wingless. Pollinia sectile or granular. Capsule ellipsoid or ovoid, erect.

Erythrodes: from the Greek for "appearing red", in reference to the flower-colour of some species.

A genus of about 100 species of tropical and subtropical regions of both hemispheres.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Terminal lobe of lip not transverse, not broader than long, often somewhat acute or mucronate or trilobulate |                                  |
| 2. Plants up to about 10 cm. tall. Stem leafy nearly to raceme .....                                            | 3. <u>Erythrodes trinitatis</u>  |
| 2A. Plants 30-60 cm. tall (sometimes much taller). Stems above long-leafless .....                              | 2. <u>Erythrodes plantaginea</u> |
| 1A. Terminal lobe of lip transverse, broader than long, lunate .....                                            | 1. <u>Erythrodes hirtella</u>    |

1. Erythrodes hirtella (Sw.) Fawcett et Rendle Fl. Jam. 1 (1910) 29, t.3, figs. 16-19.

Satyrium hirtellum Swartz Prodr. (1788) 118.

Orchis hirtella (Sw.) Swartz Fl. 3 (1806) 1394.

Habenaria hirtella (Sw.) Sprengel Syst. Veg. 3 (1826) 690.

Physurus hirtellus (Sw.) Lindley Gen. and Sp. Orch. Pl. (1840) 501.

Plants erect, 11-30 cm. tall (rarely taller). Stem basally succulent, glabrous, above slender, sparsely pilose, below rather densely 5-8-leaved.



Leaves ovate to ovate-lanceolate (uppermost sometimes lanceolate), acute, basally with a rather long, sheathing petiole, 4-8 cm. long, 1.5-3 cm. wide. Inflorescence hairy, densely or rather densely many-flowered, 3-6 cm. long but elongating in fruit. Flowers white, greenish white without. Bracts lanceolate, acuminate, sparsely pilose, up to 6.5 mm. long. Ovary densely glandular-pilose. Sepals rather variable, usually ovate-lanceolate, oblique, obtuse, sparsely pilose, 3.5 mm. long; lateral sepals 1 mm. wide; dorsal sepal somewhat wider. Petals oblanceolate, obtuse, about as long as sepals but narrower. Lip 3-lobed, oblong in outline, constricted above, 3.5 mm. long; terminal lobe clawed, transverse, broader than long, lunate, papillose, spur 2 mm. long, much shorter than ovary. Capsule elongate ovoid, 6-angled, pilose, 8 mm. long, 3 mm. in diameter.

Flowers: December - April.

Known throughout the West Indies.

TRINIDAD: St. Anne's, April 30, 1848 (Herb. Trin. 409); December 23, 1892, Alexander s.n. (Herb. Trin. 5075); Tucuche, February 27, 1893, Broadway s.n. (Herb. Trin. 5248).

2. Erythrodos plantaginea (L.) Fawcett et Rendle Fl. Jam. 1 (1910) 28, t.3, fig. 15.

Satyrion plantagineum Linnaeus Syst. 10, ed. 2 (1759) 1244.

Physurus plantagineus (L.) Lindley Gen. and Sp. Orch. Pl. (1840) 503.

Orchis plantaginea Swartz in Act. Holm. (1800) 207.

Pelexia bursaria Lindley in Ann. Nat. Hist. 4 (1840) 116.

Physurus elatior Reichenbach f. in Bonpland. 3 (1855) 214.

Plants erect, up to 60 cm. tall. Rhizome decumbent, succulent, sometimes up to 180 cm. long, glabrous and densely 3-6-leaved below, slender, hairy and bearing scales above. Leaves ovate-elliptic or ovate-lanceolate, acute, basally with a sheathing petiole, 6-15 cm. long, 2.5-5.5 cm. wide (uppermost usually much smaller). Inflorescence hairy, rather densely many-flowered, up to 15 cm. long. Flowers white, sometimes greenish without. Bracts ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, somewhat pilose, lowermost up to 1 cm. long, uppermost smaller. Ovary very pilose. Sepals oblong-lanceolate, oblique, obtuse, slightly pilose, 6-7 mm. long, 1.5-1.8 mm. wide. Petals narrowly oblanceolate, obtuse, slightly shorter than sepals. Lip obscurely 3-lobed, ovate-oblong in outline, strongly constricted above, 5.5-6 mm. long, 2 mm. wide; terminal lobe ovate-triangular, trilobulate, apically revolute-acuminate, sometimes crenulate; spur 3.5-5 mm. long, more than half as long as ovary. Capsule ellipsoidal, 6-angled, 8 mm. long, about 3 mm. in diameter.



Flowers: March - June.

Known throughout the West Indies.

Caledonia, June 16, 1913, Broadway 4639  
[Herb. Gray 1923];

TRINIDAD: Entrance of Aripo Caves, March 25, 1934, Bruins-Lich s.n. (Herb. Trin. 12991, Herb. Ames 68182); Mt. Aripo, March 24, 1937, Dean et Swabey s.n. (Herb. Trin. 13136); Mt. Aripo, by River Crossing, June 18, 1947, Simmonds 110 (Herb. Trin. 13805); Sieber 323 (cited by Cogniaux); Crueger s.n. (cited by Cogniaux).

3. Erythrodotes trinitatis Ames Orch~~id~~. 7 (1922) 76.

Plants more or less 9 cm. tall, glabrous. Rhizome decumbent, cauliform. Leaves variegated, approximate, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, 1-2 cm. long, up to 11 mm. wide; petiole about 1 cm. long, below middle loosely sheathing, above middle contracted. Inflorescence more or less 2 cm. long, glabrous, densely flowered. Flowers white, small, about 4 mm. long. Bracts scarious, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, up to 6 mm. long. Dorsal sepal slightly keeled without, minutely papillose near the apex, 4 mm. long. Lateral sepals elliptic-oblong, slightly cucullate near the apex, sub-obtuse, 4 mm. long, 1.75 mm. wide. Petals unequally spathulate, obtuse, 3.5 mm. long, 1 mm. wide. Lip saccate, 3-lobed, 3.5 mm. long; mid-lobe trilobulate, 2 mm. long, 2 mm. wide at base, with mid-lobule triangular; disk of terminal lobe with transverse keel. Spur glabrous within, 2 mm. long.

Flowers: ?

Apparently endemic to Trinidad.

TRINIDAD: St. Anne's, 1888, Broadway s.n. (Herb. Ames 68183, drawings of type).  
without proper locality, Criger s.n. (in herb. Gray 5955)



Garay, Leslie A. undated. "Garay, Leslie A. undated [Erythroides]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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