

CERATOSTYLIS INCOGNITA J.T. ATWOOD AND J. BECKNER,
A NEW SPECIES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

JOHN T. ATWOOD¹ AND JOHN BECKNER²

¹Orchid Identification Center, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 S. Palm Avenue,
Sarasota, Florida 34236

²736 Myrtle Way South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33706

A new species of *Ceratostylis* is described from the Philippines based on two living collections. It is closely related to *C. loheri* L.O. Williams but has a much larger lip.

Small flowered orchid genera tend to receive little attention. The subject of this short communication, one of the larger flowered species of an otherwise small-flowered genus, was imported from the Philippines as *Ceratostylis philippinensis* Rolfe under one source (J. Lee) and as "*Ceratostylis rubra alba*" from another source (J. & L. Orchids). The plant differs from *C. philippinensis* in several respects. (1) Leaves of that species are less than 5 cm long while those of the present sample are 8-12 cm. (2) The scape of *C. philippinensis* is exerted beyond the rhizome bracts while that of this species is not. (3) Sepals of *C. philippinensis* are described as less than 3 mm long ("1-½ lines") while those of the present plant are 10 to 11 mm long. (4) The lip is described as "subcordate-oblong, subacute" while that of the present plant is 3-lobate, not at all subcordate and is rather obtuse to rounded in front. The plant differs from *C. retisquama* Rehb.f. (syn.: *C. rubra* Ames) by the smaller, whitish and not red flowers, and by the fleshy lunate midlobe of the lip. The plant and flower have some resemblance to allied *Sarcostoma javanica* Bl., a genus with four pollinia which is not reported from the Philippines (see Seidenfaden & Wood 1992).

We researched other species of *Ceratostylis* using the treatment of Philippine orchids by Valmayor (1984) and treatments of neighboring islands and mainland South East Asia. It turns out that the plant agrees well with *C. loheri* L.O. Williams in leaf and flower size, pubescence of the ovary and sepals, and in the central keel attachment of the lip to the column but differs greatly in lip shape and size. The lip of *C. loheri* is described as "triangular in outline, about 2 mm long and as broad" while that of the present plant is more complex, measuring about 7 mm long and 4.5 mm broad. We have not examined a flower from the type of *C. loheri*, but feel the original description with differing features of the lip could not possibly match the present plant.

Unfortunately nothing is known of its habitat

other than the country of origin. As this has entered horticulture and needs a name, we feel it is best to describe it as new. An illustration is provided in the hope that it will be rediscovered in the Philippines and its habitat documented.

Ceratostylis incognita J.T. Atwood and J. Beckner, sp. nov. FIGURE 1.

TYPE: PHILIPPINES. Without locality, *J. Lee s.n.* (Holotype: SEL, OIC 11984).

Species affinis *Ceratostylis loheri* L.O. Williams, sed labello parviore et in forma labelli differt.

Plant caespitose to shortly creeping, probably epiphytic. **Stems** apparently pendent or spreading; roots slender, less than 0.5 mm in diameter. **Pseudobulbs** cylindrical, 1-1.5 cm long, concealed when young by translucent, net veined rhizome bracts, apically 1-foliolate. Leaf terete, curved, grooved above, 8-12 × 0.5 cm, acute. **Inflorescence** apparently a single flowered scape with condensed peduncle borne just below the leaf articulation, less than 5 mm long, concealed by the rhizome bracts, ovary obovoid-ellipsoid, floccose, 7-8 mm long. **Flowers** according to collector with strong, sweet, spicy fragrance; spreading, about 1.5 × 1.5 cm, crystalline white with yellow lip. **Sepals** broad, obtuse, puberulent externally, 5-7-nerved, dissimilar; dorsal elliptic, 10-11 × 5-6 mm; lateral sepals obliquely ovate, attached to column foot by short central keel as well as sides forming a mentum ca. 2 mm long. **Petals** elliptic, somewhat constricted on upper ½, 3-nerved, 8-9 × 3.5-4 mm. **Lip** 3-lobate at about the middle appearing somewhat sigmoid in lateral view, 7 × 4 mm, with short claw at the base, partially joined to the column by a short keel; lateral lobes subtriangular, directed upward and clasping the column, obtuse; midlobe lunate, papillose to bristly, strongly reflexed, much thickened, rounded to obtuse; 2 calli present, each extending from the divergence of the lateral lobes toward the front. **Column** stout, broadened above, floccose next to lip, 7 mm including anther and foot; foot 2 mm, anther somewhat incumbent, pollinia 8, rostellum elongate.

PARATYPE: PHILIPPINES, locality unknown, *J and L Orchids* 1096-525, OIC 12314.

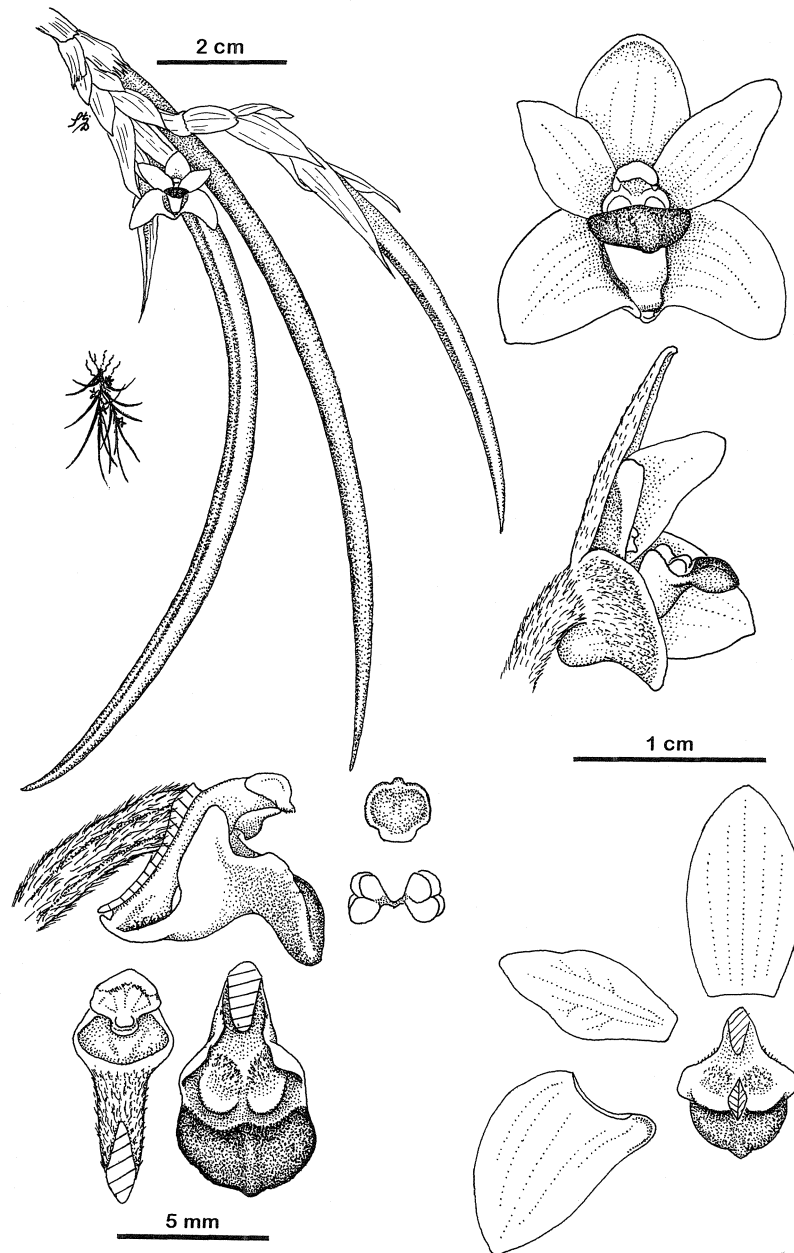


FIGURE 1. *Ceratostylis incognita* J.T. Atwood and J. Beckner. Lip (lower left) with crease from straightening; lip (lower right) somewhat split from spreading the sidelobes.

LITERATURE CITED

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