

Catasetum suave A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba robusta, pro genere parviflora. Pseudobulbi cylindracei, vaginis foliorum distichis imbricantibus omnino obtecti. Folia lanceolato-elliptica, inferne sensim petiolata, membranacea, cum nervis tribus subtus conspicuis. Scapus basalis, diffusus, laxe pluriflorus. Perianthii partes valde reflexae. Sepala oblonga, interdum paulo cuneata. Petala rotundato-ovata. Labellum valde saccatum, ovatum, obtusum, prope basim sacco carina antice bilobata circumdato. Columna crassissima, perbrevis, labello adnata.

Plant stout but with small flowers. Roots stout, fibrous, flexuous. Pseudobulb or thickened stem cylindrical, entirely concealed by loose, imbricating, distichous leaf-sheaths, including the latter 11–12 cm. high. Leaves lanceolate-elliptic, acute or acuminate, gradually tapering into a channeled petiole, up to 39 cm. long including the petiole, 2.9–6.2 cm. wide slightly above the middle, membranaceous in the dried specimen, many-nerved with 3 nerves conspicuous on the under surface. Scape basal, diffuse, much shorter than the leaves, about 20–30 cm. long, concealed at base by several loose imbricating distichous sheaths. Raceme loosely 9- to 13-flowered. Floral bracts concave, lanceolate, shorter than the pedicellate ovary. Flowers small for the genus. Sepals and petals strongly reflexed, fleshy-thickened especially in the middle. Lateral sepals oblong or cuneate-oblong, 1.9–2.3 cm. long, 6.6–10 mm. wide, oblique at the rounded or subacute apex. Dorsal sepal similar, 2–2.36 cm. long, 6–10 mm. wide, apex rounded. Petals broadly elliptic-ovate or suborbicular-ovate, 1.6–1.8 cm. long, 1.1–1.45 cm. wide near the middle, subacute to broadly rounded at the apex, much thickened through the central area, slightly oblique. Labellum deeply saccate, simple, ovate, 1.55–1.65 cm. long, semipyriform as seen from the side, very fleshy with the margins thinner and spreading. The entrance to the sac at the base of the lip is surrounded by a high keel which forms a reëntrant angle in front. The interior of the sac and the inner surface of the keels are pubescent. Column very short and stout, 6–8.9 mm. long, entirely adnate to the base of the lip. Anther oblong-ovoid, abruptly acuminate, with a decurved projecting rounded lobule on each side near the apex. Pollinia 2, obliquely pyriform. Stipe stout, oval.

The description was drawn from dried specimens supplemented by flowers preserved in formalin.

Catasetum suave is apparently allied to *C. thylaciochilum* Lem., but it differs from that species in color of the flower and in the simple lip. The flowers are described by the collector as white or ivory white, globular in bud, and fragrant as the Stanhopeas. Indeed this honey-like odor is noticeable even in the herbarium specimen. The sepals and petals are said to reflex after a day or so and thus enclose the pedicellate ovary. Collector's notes also indicate that the saccate interior of the lip is yellow marked with sparse brown spots.

COSTA RICA, La Fuente, A. Alfaro 162, August 16, 1925. 1200 meters altitude. (TYPE in U. S. Nat. Herb. No. 1208258; DUPLICATE TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 33714); Alfaro *s. n.*, September 7, 1924. 1100 meters altitude (inflorescence only). Carillo, C. H. Lankester 1181, 1926. Flowered at Las Concavas, May–June 1928 (inflorescence only).