

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF HONDURAS.

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The genus *Lepanthes* is represented in Central America by approximately fifty species of which the greater part are natives of Costa Rica.

In 1923, while exploring the Lancetilla Valley, near Tela, in Spanish Honduras, I found an interesting representative of the genus for which I have been unable to find any published description. It was growing, partly exposed to the sun, on the slender branches of a tree which overhung the east bank of the Tela River.

The only published record of a species of *Lepanthes* from Honduras is in Paul C. Standley's *Flora of the Lancetilla Valley* (Field Museum of Natural History, Publication 283, January 15, 1931, p. 148). This species was not named, but it is identical with the one described below.

***Lepanthes hondurensis* Ames, sp. nov.**

Herba caespitosa, mediocris. Caules pergraciles, late patentes, vaginis tubulatis arctis omnino obtecti. Folium singulum, erectum, ovatum vel lanceolato-ovatum. Inflorescentiae singulae vel plures, quam folium multo breviores. Sepala lateralialia late ovata, acuta, parte inferiore connata. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala transverse bilobata; lobi posteriores suborbiculares; lobi anteriores paulo angustiores. Labellum trilobatum, lobis lateralibus dolabriformibus, in margine exteriori carinato-peltatis; lobo intermedio minuto, fugaci.

Plant caespitose, variable in height and in the proportions of the vegetative organs, 6-13 cm. tall from the base of the secondary stems to the tip of the leaf. Roots fibrous, filiform. Stems slender, obliquely ascending, 3-9.1 cm. long, entirely enveloped by 6-10 slenderly infundibuliform sheaths which are closely appressed and minutely scabrous on the longitudinal nerves with the margin of the free portion hispid. Leaf terminal, solitary,

petioled; lamina 1.6–4.7 cm. long, up to 2.2. cm. wide, ovate-lanceolate or elliptic-ovate, abruptly acute with a minutely tridenticulate apex, the base either cuneate or rounded. Inflorescence axillary. Peduncles 1–9, much shorter than the leaf, filiform, rather densely and distichously few-flowered at the apex (rarely with twelve or more flowers), flowers opening in succession. Bracts concave, cymbiform, conspicuously glandular-hispid on the outer surface, much shorter than the pedicels. Flowers small, membranaceous. Lateral sepals obliquely ovate, greenish yellow, acute, sometimes abruptly so, the lower halves connate, up to 4 mm. long, the free portion up to 3 mm. wide near the base, 2–3 nerved. Dorsal sepal similar. Petals orange, bordered with mauve, transversely bilobed, very minutely ciliate, about 4.3 mm. wide from tip to tip of the lobes; posterior lobe suborbicular to broadly oval; anterior lobe oval to subquadrate, as long as the posterior lobe, but slightly narrower, broadly rounded at the apex. Labellum mauve, trilobed, 3-nerved with the lateral nerves faintly clavate, adherent to the column, 1.3–1.8 mm. long; lateral lobes dolabriform, apically convergent, minutely ciliate, each one with a raised carina; middle lobe minute, membranaceous, oblong, truncate, fugacious. Column mauve, about equal to the labellum or slightly shorter, somewhat dilated near the apex.

HONDURAS, Department of Atlántida, Lancetilla Valley near Tela. Epiphyte. *Ames II. 171*, March 11, 1923. Sepals pale yellow. Petals suggesting a tiny butterfly, orange bordered with violet or mauve. (Type in Herb. Ames No. 33709); On tree in wet forest. *Paul C. Standley 52779*, December 6, 1927–March 20, 1928. 20 to 600 meters altitude. Sepals greenish. Petals and lip orange red.

Lepanthes hondurensis is allied to *L. appendiculata* Ames, a Guatemalan species, but is larger in the vegetative parts with differences in the structure of the labellum. In vegetative structures it resembles closely *L. fimbriata* Ames from Costa Rica, but is different from that species in the form of the petals.

Apparently the flowering season is of long duration, as the flowers seem to open one at a time.