Herbs, terrestrial, rarely epiphytic, glabrous except for minute hairs in lip or bracts or both. Rhizome creeping, not branching, with scales; roots filiform, not branching. Pseudobulb consisting of 1 internode, alternating 1–6 with a leaf and 1 with an inflorescence, ascending, clearly articulate with petiole or scape, scales tubular, membranous, soon disintegrating. Leaf 1 per pseudobulb, not deciduous, convolute, not sheathing at base, plicate; petiole channeled. Inflorescence an erect raceme on a leafless pseudobulb, both scape and rachis elongating during anthesis, scape with few internodes, scales tubular, persistent; floral bracts persistent during anthesis. Flowers resupinate, turned to all sides, widely spaced, most open simultaneously, opening widely, spreading. Sepals free; lateral sepals inserted on column foot. Petals equal in size and shape; lip movable, narrowly attached to column foot, 3-lobed, without a spur (but column foot provided with a spur), fleshy; hypochile with claw on either side strongly pleated, front part on either side with an erect lateral lobe, keels 3, conspicuous, median one shorter; epichile recurved, concave, lateral margins incurved or inrolled, on base with 2 or 3 keels continued from hypochile. Column straight to curved forward, with 2 small, rounded lobes on front of column foot and 2 lateral, fleshy keels that continue upward on column, where they fuse and end below stigma, margins on either side at or below middle with a seam drawn out into a flat, triangular or suborbicular wing that continues upward as a narrow seam, foot with a saccate spur; anther 2-locular; pollinia 2, hard, without caudicles, stipe, or viscidium. Capsule with persistent remnants of perianth.

Four species: tropical Asia to New Guinea and the Pacific islands; two species in China.

The genus Chrysoglossum has been monographed by van der Burgh and de Vogel (Orchid Monogr. 8: 135–174, 1997).

1a. Leaf blade 4.5–7.5 cm wide; lateral sepals 10–16 mm; margin of claw of lip with 1 pleat, and shallow wave sometimes absent, glabrous; column foot spur short and wide, 0.5–2.5 mm, less than 1.5 × as long as broad; stigma margin entire ....................................................................................................................................................... 1. C. ornatum

1b. Leaf blade 5–12.5 cm wide; lateral sepals 14–18 mm; margin of claw of lip with 2 shallow pleats and once folded downward, very minutely papillose; column foot spur slender, 2.5–3.3 mm, more than 2 × as long as broad; base of stigma margin laterally with a distinct protruding point ..................................................... 2. C. assamicum


Ania maculata Thwaites; Chrysoglossum erraticum J. D. Hooker; C. formosanum Hayata; C. maculatum (Thwaites) J. D. Hooker; Tainia maculata (Thwaites) Trimen.

Pseudobulbs borne 1–2 cm apart on rhizome, cylindric-conic, 5–7 cm × 8–20 mm, 1-leaved. Leaf blade narrowly elliptic, strongly plicate, 20–34 × 4.5–7.5 cm, papery, 5-veined, base cuneate, apex shortly acuminate; petiole ca. 10 cm. Peduncle to 50 cm, glabrous, with 3 inconspicuous veins, apex slightly obtuse; lateral sepals falcate-oblong, 14–18 × 3–4 mm, with 4 or 5 sheaths; rachis laxly 10-centifoliated; floral bracts lanceolate, 1.2–1.5 cm. Flowers white; pedicel and ovary 2–2.5 cm, slender. Dorsal sepal elliptic, 12–14 × ca. 3 mm, 5-veined, subobtuse; lateral sepals falcate-oblong, 10–16 × ca. 3.5 mm, 5-veined, apex subobtuse; mentum conic, ca. 2 mm. Petals falcate, 12–14 × 4–5 mm; lip 8–10 mm, base with 2 small auricles, 3-lobed near middle; lateral lobes erect, ovate-triangular, rounded; mid-lobe broadly elliptic or orbicular, concave; disk with 3 lamellae, lateral 2 incurved at middle, median shorter. Column 6–8 mm, winged, near middle with 2 auricles, base dilated, foot ca. 3 mm; pollinia pyriform. Fl. Apr–Jun. 2n = 36.

Shaded and humid places in forests; 700–1700 m. Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, S and SW Yunnan [Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam].


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apex of column foot; mentum spurlike, ca. 4 mm. Petals similar to lateral sepals, 13–17 × ca. 2 mm; lip obovate-cuneate, ca. 1 cm, 3-lobed; lateral lobes subovate, ca. 1 cm wide (flattened), apex obtuse; mid-lobe broadly obovate, 4–6 × 5–7 mm, concave, apex subtruncate; disk with 3 lamellae, median shorter. Column ca. 1 cm, winged, with conspicuous foot; wings with 1 decurved toothlike arm on either side of middle part. Fl. Apr.

Damp rocky places along valleys or in forests; ca. 1600 m. E Guangxi, SE Xizang [NE India, Vietnam].