

Pleurothallis Butcheri L. Wms., sp. nov.

Herba caespitosa epiphytica usque ad 15 cm. alta. Folia lineari-lanceolata, acuta vel acuminata, purpurea, carnosae. Sepalum dorsale lineari-lanceolatum, uninervium. Sepala lateralia connata, cymbiformia, ovalia, trinervia. Petala lanceolata obliqua, acuta vel acuminata, uninervia. Labellum oblongo-ovatum vel oblongo-subcordatum, acutum, trinervium. Columna ca. 5 mm. longa, arcuata.

Small caespitose epiphytic herbs to about 15 cm. tall. Secondary stems 2-4.5 cm. long, covered with 2-3 tight chartaceous sheaths which disintegrate with age. Leaves 10-11 cm. long and 1-1.2 cm. broad, linear-lanceolate, acute or acuminate, sessile on the secondary stems, somewhat fleshy and deep purple when fresh, or the upper surface greenish. Inflorescence a few-flowered (± 6) raceme, about as long as or longer than the subtending leaf, bracts infundibuliform, chartaceous, acute or acuminate, 3-4 mm. long, pedicels about 1.5 mm. long. Flowers purple, the lip motile; sepals hairy on the inner surface; dorsal sepal linear-lanceolate, acute, 1-nerved, about 13.5 mm. long and 2 mm. broad, pubescent inside above with coarse hairs, keeled dorsally along the mid-nerve; lateral sepals connate to near the apex, cymbiform when fresh, oval, about 13 mm. long and 9 mm. broad when spread, the free tips acute, each sepal 3-nerved, pubescent on the inside along the outer nerve with coarse hairs and also along the sinus between the tips of the sepals, glabrous outside, somewhat keeled along the mid-nerve of each sepal; petals obliquely lanceolate, acute or short acuminate, 1-nerved, about 5 mm. long and 1 mm. broad; lip when spread oblong-ovate or oblong subcordate, acute, 3-nerved, the lateral nerves short, basal angles of the lip rounded, thin, obscurely lacerate, disc of the lip provided with 2 subparallel fleshy calli near the margins and at and below the middle of the lip, disc obscurely muricate, tip of the lip ciliate; column about 5 mm. long, arcuate, the clinandrium thin and the margin lacerate.

Panama: Epiphyte in mossy cloud forest, along a branch of Río Machomonte, Cordillera, vicinity of Volcán, slopes of Chiriquí volcano, Chiriquí province, alt. 4000 feet, January 19, 1961, *Henry P. Butcher 651* (type in Chicago Natural History Museum).

Among the nearly 200 species that are recognized from Central America (more than 50 in Panama) I do not know any that are closely allied to the present one. There are several that resemble it superficially; the widespread and variable *P. segoviensis* Reichb. f. is one of these. The coarse pubescence of the inner surfaces of the sepals, the lip with obscurely muricate disc, the deeply cymbiform and connate lateral sepals are characters by which the species may be known.