

**Platystele calymma** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis obovatis obtusis tridenticulatis petiolatis, racemo gracili quam folio triplo longiore plurifloro, floribus parvis glabris albo-virentibus longipedicellatis, sepalo dorsali oblongo concavo, sepalis lateralibus libris late falcatis acutis, petalis anguste obovatis-falcatis abrupte acuminatis, labello carnosio obovato obtuso callo basi transverse semilunato, columna latissime cucullata grandi pro flore.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 4-10 mm long, mostly clothed by 1-2 thin, ribbed sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect or suberect, coriaceous, obovate, the apex obtuse to rounded, tridenticulate, the base cuneate, acuminate into a petiole 5-8 mm long, the leaf 2-3.5 cm long including the petiole, 7-10 mm wide. Inflorescence a slender, weak, laxly several-flowered (8-10) raceme, 6-8 cm long including the filiform peduncle, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract oblique, acute, 1 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; flowers glabrous, greenish white, widespread; dorsal sepal oblong, acute, concave, 2 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, indistinctly 1-veined; lateral sepals free, broadly falcate, acute, 1.75 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, indistinctly 1-veined; petals obovate-falcate, shortly acuminate, acute, 1.75 mm long, 0.4 mm wide; lip green fleshy, the cells prominent microscopically, obovate, obtuse, the base with a transverse, semilunate callus, the disc thickened above the basal callus with a shallow depression in the center, 1 mm long, 0.6 mm wide; column 1 mm long with broad, rounded, lateral wings, 1.3 mm across, spread apart, the foot obsolescent.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *calymma*, "a hood," in reference to the large, hooded column.

TYPE: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic in the cloud forest along the El Llano-Carti road, alt. ca. 650 m, Feb. 1977, *R. L. Dressler s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 77-1751, flowered in cult. 15 May 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Vegetatively this distinctive species is not remarkable, the small, obovate, short-stemmed leaves resembling many species of *Pleurothallis* and *Stelis*. The tiny, greenish white flowers, however, differ in many respects from those of other species of *Platystele*. The broad, falcate lateral sepals are held together as if they were united. The equally long, falcate petals are held out and down to either side of the lateral sepals. The obtuse, green labellum is similar in size to the comparatively large broadly cucullate column which overhangs about half of the lip. Deep within the hood, the lip is furnished with a transverse, rounded callus just above the attachment to the base of the column.

