

***Platystele speckmaieri* Luer & Sijm, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for Manfred Speckmaier of Freising, Germany, cultivator of this species.

Inter species generis *Platystelis* Schltr., planta minuta caespitosa, pedunculo foliis ellipticis multilongiore, racemo laxo paucifloro, sepalis longissime attenuatis ad apicem leviter incrassatis, petalis attenuatis, et labello ovato supra medium angustato distinguitur,

Plant minute, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-obovate, subacute to obtuse, 8-12 mm long, 2 mm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively few-flowered raceme, to ca. 10 mm long, borne by a suberect, arching peduncle, up to ca. 6 cm long, with a few distant bracts, from low on a ramicaul; floral bracts 1-1.5 mm long; pedicels 5-8 mm long; ovary smooth, 0.6 mm long; **sepals** widely expanded, free, translucent yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, long-attenuate, slightly thickened at the tip, 15 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined, the lateral sepals similar, diverging; **petals** translucent yellow, narrowly ovate, acute, attenuate, 5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** red, cellular-glabrous, ovate below the middle, 2 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined, contracted above the middle, becoming thick, narrowly obtuse, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column with a short claw; **column** membranous, 0.8 mm long, 0.8 mm wide.

PANAMA: **Panama:** El Valle de Anton, flowered in cultivation at Wien, Sept. 2009, A.P. Sijm 290815 (Holotype of *P. speckmaieri*: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21487.

With the exceedingly long, extremely thin, attenuated sepals, this minute, caespitose species is distinguished from all others of the genus. Only the dorsal sepal of the tiny, repent *Platystele johnstonii* (Ames) Garay is also long-attenuate. Except for all three attenuated sepals, *Platystele speckmaieri* is most similar to a small, vegetative variation of *Platystele oxyglossa* (Schltr.) Garay.

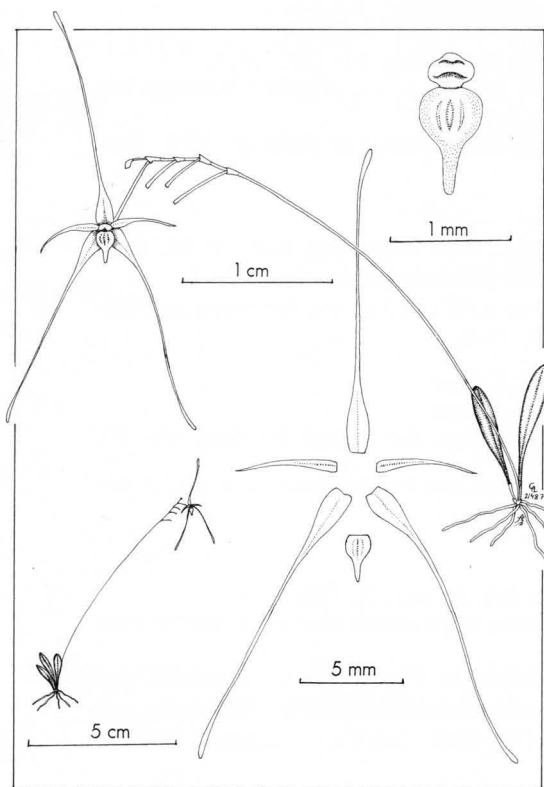


Fig. 17. *Platystele speckmaieri*