

Pleurothallis dorotheae Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva dense caespitosa, foliis ellipticis crassissimis breviter petiolatis caulibus secundariis gracilibus aequilongis, flore solitarii nonresupinato glabro albovirescenti sparsim punctulato breviter pedunculato, sepalo impari synsepaloque concavis suborbicularibus, petalis purpureis ellipticis carinatis, labello orbiculato repando apiculato basi bi-auriculato.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots fasciculate, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, suberect, unifoliate, 1.5-3 cm long, with 1-2 basal sheaths. Leaf erect to suberect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical, marginate, 18-24 mm long including a 2-3 mm long petiole, 9-12 mm wide, the obtuse apex tridenticulate, the base obtusely cuneate into the short petiole. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate flower produced in succession from a 4 mm long spathe at the base of the leaf; peduncle ca. 1 mm long; floral bract 3 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary 2.5-3 mm long; sepals glabrous, translucent light green with a few purple specks; middle sepal suborbicular to broadly ovate, obtuse, 4 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into a concave, orbicular to transversely ovate synsepal, the apex obtuse to rounded, 4 mm long, 5.5 mm wide spread out, 4-veined; petals purple, elliptical-oblong, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, carinate dorsally; lip yellow, marked with purple, suborbicular to transversely ovate, 2.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the rounded apex shortly apiculate, the margins minutely wavy, the disc with a large, depressed glenion flanked basally with obtuse calli, the base concave with a pair of obtuse auricles embracing the column; column yellow, stout, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the foot obsolescent.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Miss Dorothy Lankester of San Jose, Costa Rica, who cultivated this species in her garden.

TYPE: *COSTA RICA*: without locality, cultivated by Dorothy Lankester in San Jose, SEL greenhouse acc. no. 79-1613, flowered in cult. 28 Feb. 1980, *C. Luer 5204* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Costa Rica.

This attractive little species is characterized by a densely caespitose habit, thick, hard leaves, a little, pale green, non-resupinate, rounded flower with carinate petals and a rounded, apiculate lip with basal auricles.