

## CENTRAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

**Pleurothallis amethystina** *Ames sp. nov.* Radices fibratae, albidae. Caules secundarii abbreviati, vaginati, monophylli. Folium anguste oblanceolatum, obtusum, obscure marginatum, pedunculo brevius. Pedunculus cum racemo folium multo excedens. Racemus quinque ad quindecimflorus, plus minusve secundus. Bractee flores subtendentes scariosae, infundibuliformes, oblique truncatae, acutae. Pedicellus cum ovario bracteis longior. Sepala lateralia paene usque ad apicem cohaerentia, apice bidentata, laminam anguste ellipticam purpureo-villosam convexam

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formantia, lamina subtus bicarinata. Sepalum dorsale anguste ellipticum, obtusum, prope basim valde concavum, subtus per medium valde unicarinatum, supra pilis longiusculis purpureis appressis adpersum. Petala amethystina, columnam aequantia, oblonga, glabra, abrupte acuta, carnosae. Labellum amethystinum, inaequaliter trilobatum; lobis lateralibus erectis, porrectis, oblongis, obtusis, basi truncatis; lobo medio permagno, oblongo, apice obtuse rotundato, glabro. Discus supra basim lobi terminalis bicarinatus, carinis valde incrassatis, prope unguem brevem bicallosus. Columna leviter arcuata, androclinio minute denticulato.

Secondary stems 1–1.5 cm. long, slender, concealed by a tubular closely appressed sheath, monophyllous. Leaf 6–9 cm. long, 5–12 mm. wide. Peduncle with the raceme 6–15 cm. long, with the flowers about 5 mm. apart. Floral bracts up to 3 mm. long. Pedicel with the ovary up to 5 mm. long. Lateral sepals 8 mm. long, united to form a narrowly elliptical lamina which is bidentate at the tip, villose on the upper surface, more densely so near the margin than in the centre; when spread out the lamina is about 3 mm. wide. Petals 3 mm. long, 2 mm. wide. Labellum with the short claw 4 mm. long; lateral lobes basal, 2 mm. long, .75 mm. wide; middle lobe 3 mm. long, about 1.5 mm. wide. Column about 3 mm. long, at base produced into a short foot.

Closely allied to *Pleurothallis Wercklei* Schltr., *P. canae* Ames, *P. Johannis* Schltr., *P. bifalcis* Schltr. and several other species of the Central American orchid flora. From *P. Wercklei*, with which it has been confused, it differs conspicuously in having the lateral lobes of the labellum much broader in relation to their length, in the truncate base of the lip forming with the claw a right angle on each side, and in the tip of the petals being abruptly acute, not triangular acute and obscurely trilobed when spread out.

GUATEMALA, Department of Alta Verapaz, Samac, *Harry Johnson* 878, October 20, 1920. Flowers purplish. 4000 feet altitude. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 21282.);

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Coban, *H. v. Tuerckheim* 3997, November 1912. 1550 meters altitude.