

Pleurothallis annectens Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, foliis tenuibus ovatis cordatis acuminatis acutis, floribus fasciculatis successivis solitariis longipedicellatis rubropunctulatis, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque late ovato acuminato concavo, petalis grandibus sigmoideis acuminatis, labello carnosso sessili late cordato geniculato apiculatis lobis basalibus rotundatis erectis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, unifoliolate, 5-10 cm long, with a closely fitting, tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base. Leaf suberect to horizontal, thin, coriaceous, ovate, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base shallowly cordate, sessile. Inflorescence fasciculate, the long-pedicellate flowers borne singly and successively from a slender spathe, 5-10 mm long, at the base of the leaf; peduncle 15-20 mm long; pedicel 5-6 mm long; floral bract 3 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; flowers diffusely suffused with red and covered with dark red flecks; dorsal sepal concave, broadly ovate, acuminate, acute, 4-5 mm long, 2.75-3 mm wide, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into a concave synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, the apex minutely bidentate, 4-5 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, 4-veined; petals oblong-sigmoid, acuminate, acute, minutely and sparsely toothed, 4-5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; lip fleshy, broadly ovate-cordate, geniculate, the apex acuminate, apiculate, the base sessile, the basal lobes rounded, erect and surrounding the column, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide spread; column stout, 1.5 mm long, the foot obsolete.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *annectens*, "linking, connecting" (from *nectere*, "to bind or tie"), suggesting a link between solitary flowers and racemose inflorescences.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in cloud forest along the continental divide above Camp Escopeta, Cerro Colorado, alt. 1700 m, 16 Feb. 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. L. Dressler 1583 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 77-1746, flowered in cult. 12 April 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This species is closely allied to the one- to two-flowered *Pleurothallis archicolonae* Luer, but it is readily separated by its larger habit and ovate-cordate leaves. The habit and flowers are very similar to those of the small-flowered *P. volcanica* Luer and the widespread, larger-flowered *P. rowleei* Ames, but the inflorescence of the latter two is racemose. The inflorescence of *P. annectens* is a fascicle of long, single-flowered peduncles, suggesting a link between the single-flowered and racemose species.

