

Pleurothallis cingens A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba humilis, valida. Caulis superne folio cinctus, parte superiore bialatus. Folium ellipticum, obtusum et minute bilobatum, strictum. Inflorescentiae in medio folii orientes, perbreves. Racemi congesti, pauciflori. Sepala lateralialia in laminam late ovatam connata. Sepalum dorsale spathulatum. Petala multo minora, oblongo-lanceolata, serrata. Labellum in circuitu ovatum, in apice rotundatum, supra papillosum.

Plant 9.6–15 cm. tall. Rhizome stout, woody, apparently creeping (only a fragment remains). Roots fibrous, glabrous, flexuous. Stems remarkable in extending about to the lower third of the erect leaf-blade; portion up to the base of the leaf 4–8.7 cm. long, gradually bialate above, more or less 4-angled in the dried specimen, lower part invested by 2 loose tubular sheaths which are scarious and imbricating; portion surrounded by the leaf-blade 1.7–2.9 cm. long, articulated very obliquely with the leaf. Leaf elliptic, 5.4–7 cm. long from the apex to the base of the auricles or lobes which surround the stem, up to 2.3 cm. wide, obtuse, coriaceous, mid-nerve prominently carinate beneath. Inflorescences 1–2, at the summit of the stem, in about the middle of the leaf. Racemes very short, congested, few-flowered, about 1 cm. long, lower part enveloped by a large conduplicate acuminate spathe which is up to 1.1 cm. long. Floral bracts imbricated, concave. Flowers very fleshy. Lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate lamina which is 4.5 mm. long and about 4–4.8 mm. wide, rounded at the apex, 6-nerved, ciliolate, sparingly short-pubescent on the outer surface. Dorsal sepal spatulate, 5.2–5.8 mm. long, 2.1–2.5 mm. wide above the middle, rounded at the apex, concave, indistinctly 3-nerved, sparingly ciliolate. Petals oblong-lanceolate, oblique, about 3.1 mm. long, 1.1 mm. wide, obtuse, irregularly serrate, conspicuously 1-nerved. Labellum shortly unguiculate, the sides of the basal half incurved in natural position; claw short and very stout, 1 mm. long and somewhat wider at the base of the abrupt lamina; lamina when expanded ovate, about 3 mm. long, about 2.2 mm. wide near the base, with an indistinct very small semiorbicular lobule on each side of the base, margins finely and irregularly erose, upper surface densely papillose throughout, a pair of indistinct thickened keels near the middle of each side. Column about 3 mm. long, slender, more or less arcuate, abruptly and broadly bialate at the apex, the wing denticulate at the summit. Anther cap-shaped, with a tuft of hairs at the apex. Pollinia broadly pyriform, complanate.

Pleurothallis cingens is remarkable in having the stem extended into the leaf-blade, as in *P. circumplexa* Lindl. and *P. Pantasmii* Reichb. f. However, these species differ strikingly in the petals and lip. *P. gacayana* Schltr. has the inflorescences at the base of the leaf as is normally the case, but it appears to be florally similar to *P. cingens*.

The description was prepared from several dried specimens.

The specific name is in reference to the base of the leaf which surrounds the stem.

COSTA RICA, La Fuente, A. Alfaro 186, September 4 and December 1925. 1200 meters altitude. "Flowers sienna ochraceous." (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 33632; DUPLICATE TYPE in U. S. Nat. Herb. No. 1208266.)