

**Pleurothallis cucumeris** Luer, sp. nov.

Herba mediocris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis erectis teretibus seriei vaginarum costatarum vestitis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis ellipticis petiolatis, racemo brevissimo paucifloro, pedunculo pedicello ovarioque verrucoso, sepalis crassis verrucosis carinatis ovatis virescentibus, sepalis lateralibus connatis, petalis dolabriformibus, labello ligulato obtuso lateribus erectis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, slender, terete, unifoliolate, 5-11 cm long, mostly concealed by a series of 4-6 loose, ribbed, non-scabrous, tubular sheaths, soon fragmented. Leaf erect, narrowly elliptical, coriaceous, petiolate, 5.5-8 cm long, 1.3-2 cm wide, the acute apex tridenticulate, the base cuneate into a 1-2 cm long petiole. Inflorescence a short, ca. 1 cm long raceme of 2-5 light greenish flowers, from the apex of the secondary stem; peduncle verrucose, ca. 5 mm long; floral bract white, thin, papery, 2-3 mm long; pedicel verrucose, 4 mm long; ovary verrucose, 1 mm long; sepals thick, tricarinate, verrucose and glandular-cellular externally, glabrous within, the dorsal sepal ovate, narrowly obtuse, 8 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate to the apices into an ovate, obtuse lamina 7.5 mm long, 4 mm wide; petals translucent yellow, dolabriform, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 2-veined, the apex acute, the labellar margin with an obtuse, rounded angle; lip light yellow, oblong-ligulate, arcuate, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, the sides erect, the obtuse, sub-truncate apex minutely erose, the truncate base with ill-defined basal lobules, hinged to the column-foot; column stout, green, 2 mm long, the foot 1.5 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *cucumis*, -*eris*, "a cucumber," in allusion to the appearance of the flowers and fruit.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in cloud forest, Cerro Colorado, alt. ca. 1700 m, Feb. 1977, greenhouse acc. no. 77-1825, flowered in cult.

10 Dec. 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. L. Dressler 2258 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Apparently without close relatives, this species was first found in fruit. The capsules were markedly warty, as the flowers themselves proved to be later that year when the plants flowered in cultivation.