

TROPICAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

Pleurothallis spectabilis A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba caespitosa. Radices numerosae, fibrosae. Caules abbreviati, monophylli. Folia oblanceolata, inferne sensim angustata, acuta. Inflorescentiae folia multo superantes. Pedunculus complanatus. Racemi densi, distichiflori. Flores magni. Sepala lanceolata, intus dense papillosa. Petala minuta, falcato-ligulata. Labellum bis deflexum, expansum ligulatum, late truncatum, bicarinatum. Gynostemium curvatum, late alatum.

Rhizome abbreviated. Roots numerous, fibrous, somewhat flexuous, glabrous, slender. Stems abbreviated, 1-2 (usually about 1.5) cm. long, monophyllous, entirely concealed by loose tubular sheaths or the fibrous remains of sheaths, 1-jointed near or above the middle. Leaves cuneate-spatulate or oblanceolate, very gradually narrowed into the sulcate petiole; blade 6.35-10.3 cm. long, 1.15-1.6 cm. wide above the middle, acute, coriaceous, with five to seven more conspicuous nerves and the mid-nerve sulcate above and strongly carinate beneath. Peduncle up to the raceme 15.3-21 cm. long, ancipitous, narrowly winged, with two or

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three inconspicuous distant infundibuliform sheaths. Rachis 1.5–8 cm. long, suberect to arcuate, densely four to many-flowered, gently fractiflex, glabrous. Floral bracts distichous, infundibuliform, deeply keeled on the back. Flowers large for the genus. Sepals spreading, densely papillose on the inner surface except near the base, fleshy, with the margins somewhat revolute. Lateral sepals lanceolate, lightly falcate, very oblique at the base, connate below the middle, the basal part membranaceous and saccate, 1.6–1.9 cm. long, 4.2–4.6 mm. wide above the connate portion, 3-nerved, with the median nerve strongly carinate on the outside and extended into a mucro. Dorsal sepal similar, lanceolate, dorsally carinate, 1.6–1.9 cm. long, 5.5–6 mm. wide below the middle, 5-nerved, concave at base. Petals minute, ligulate-falcate, slightly broader near the apex, 3.5–4 mm. long, 1 mm. or less wide, rounded and papillose-thickened at the apex on the outer surface and concave inside, obliquely 1-nerved, mucronate. Labellum very small, in natural position twice deflected (once very abruptly near the base, and again, less abruptly, above the middle), when expanded ligulate-oblong, truncate and lightly retuse at the apex, narrowed in the middle and broadest at the base, about 5.1 mm. long when expanded, 2 mm. wide at base; a pair of keels leave the margin about 2 mm. from the base and gently converge, terminating near the apex. Column curved, slender, about 5 mm. long to the apex, with a broad membranaceous wing which is denticulate on the upper margin and sharply lacerate-dentate at the apex; column-foot short, stout, fleshy, incurved, mostly free.

Pleurothallis spectabilis is closely allied to *P. platyrachis* Rolfe, but differs in the more numerous scarlet flowers, truncate-retuse lip, and dentate column-wing. In habit it resembles *P. diuturna* Schltr., but has larger and different flowers. It is apparently a near ally of *P. Pfavii* Reichb. f., but is distinguished by its smaller leaves, 5-nerved dorsal sepal, carinate floral bracts, retuse labellum, and by the color of the flowers.

PANAMA, Province of Veraguas, Santa Fé, C. W. Powell 382, February 1924. 1500 feet altitude. "Grows in medium sun. Flowers scarlet." (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 28139.)