

Pleurothallis isthmica Luer, sp. nov.

Planta epiphytica parva mediocrisve caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, foliis crassis coriaceis anguste ellipticis acutis base rotundatis sessilibus, floribus fasciculatis singularibus successivis luteis glabris, sepalo synsepaloque ovatis subacutis, petalis oblongis integris, labello oblongo-ovato glabro integro apice crasso obtuso ochraceo.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 4-17 cm long, with a closely fitting tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base, unifoliate. Leaf suberect, thick, coriaceous, rigid, narrowly elliptical, acute, tridentulate, the base cuneate to rounded, sessile, 3-11 × 1.2-2 cm. Inflorescence a fascicle of successive flowers, produced 1 to 2 at a time, from a spathe 5-10 mm long at the base of the leaf; pedicel 5-10 mm long; floral bract 3-5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals and petals glabrous, light yellow-green to pale yellow; dorsal sepal elliptical, subacute, 5.5-8 × 3-4 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into an elliptical lamina, subacute, 5.5-7 × 3.5-4 mm, 4-veined; petals linear-oblong, slightly falcate, acute, entire, 2.5-4 × 0.75-1 mm, 1-veined; lip oblong-ovate, the apex thickened, orange to yellow-orange, rounded to obtuse, the end of the base concave, the disc slightly concave, with a narrow glenion; column stout, 1 × 1 mm, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *isthmos*, "isthmus," and *-icus*, hence, "of the Isthmus (of Panama)".

TYPE: PANAMA: VERAGUAS: epiphytic in the cloud forest near the continental divide above Santa Fe, alt. ca. 750 m, 4 Sept. 1976, C. Luer & R. L. Dressler 1140 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama and Costa Rica.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic at the Fortuna dam site, alt. ca. 1000 m, October 1976, R. L. Dressler s.n. (SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 131-76-13, flowered in cult. 5 Nov. 1976. COSTA RICA: without specific location, F. L. Stevenson 71174-5 (SEL), flowered in cult. 11 July 1974.

This species is apparently widespread and fairly frequent in western Panama. Vegetatively and florally it is similar to, but larger than, the widespread *Pleurothallis discoidea* Lindl. and its allies, and the Guatemalan *P. leucantha* Schltr. and its allies. *Pleurothallis isthmica* may be identified by its narrowly oblong, thick leaves, and medium-sized flowers with a 3-veined dorsal sepal. The dorsal sepal is 5-veined in *P. homalantha* Schltr. and its relatives. The petals are entire, and the apical half of the simple lip is thickened and orange.

