

Pleurothallis pallida Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva vel mediocris epiphytica repens, rhizomate crasso, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis folio brevioribus, foliis coriaceis ellipticis obtusis basi rotundatis sessilibus, racemo folio multilongiore, floribus grandibus pro planta pallido-viridibus erubescens ringentibus longipedicellatis, sepalo synsepaloque ovatis concavis acuminatis, petalis anguste falcatis acutis marginibus microscopicè denticulatis, labello late ovato breviter acuminato basi breviter unguiculato.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, repent, the rhizome stout and branching; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 2.5-6 cm long, with a brown, tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliate. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, apex retuse with an apicule in the sinus, base cuneate to rounded, sessile, 4-7 cm long, 2-3.8 cm wide. Inflorescence a solitary arching, distichous raceme, up to 14 cm long, 7- to 14-flowered; flowers long-pedicellate, ringent, bilabiate, pale green or flushed with pale rose toward the apices of the sepals; peduncle slender, from a narrow 15-18 mm spathe in the axil of the leaf; floral bract 2 mm long, pedicel slender, 8-17 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acuminate, acute, 8 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, 7 mm long, 5 mm wide, 4-veined; petals narrowly falcate, acuminate, acute, 7 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined, the margins microscopically denticulate; lip pale green, not geniculate, broadly ovate to suborbicular, shortly acuminate, acute, base broadly unguiculate, disc slightly concave with a prominent glenion, 3.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; column stout, 1.5 mm long, with a bulbous, glandular foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *pallidus*, "pale," in allusion to the pastel colors of the species.

TYPE: PANAMA: COCLÉ: epiphytic in the hills north of El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 6 March 1976, C. Luer, R. Dressler, J. Luer & P. Taylor 954 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), flowered in cult. 14 April 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Pleurothallis pallida is closely allied to *P. longipedicellata* Ames & Schweinf., but the former may be readily distinguished by its small habit. The secondary stems are stout, more or less shorter than the small, erect, elliptical leaf. The stems of the robust *P. longipedicellata* often reach 30 cm in length and bear a large, spreading, cordate leaf. The long, many-flowered, arching raceme of *P. pallida* far surpasses the leaf, while the fewer-flowered raceme of *P. longipedicellata* usually does not surpass the leaf in length. Both species bear their similar flowers on long pedicels. The sepals of *P. pallida* are more acuminate, and the non-geniculate lip is shorter and more apiculate. The flowers are pale green in color, but some plants bear flowers prettily flushed with pink.

