

Pleurothallis polysticta Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec ab *P. pallida* Luer at affinitatibus statura parva, foliis angustis, racemo paucifloro, floribus virescentibus roseo-maculatis, sepalis late ovatis acuminatis, petalis integris et labello late cordato apiculato angulis basalibus erectis obtusis disco bipapillato differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, unifoliate, 3-6 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath above the base and another at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-ovate, 4-5.5 cm long, 9-13 mm wide, the acute apex tridentate, the cuneate base sessile. Inflorescence a weak, suberect, few-flowered (3-4) raceme ca. 7 cm long including the filiform peduncle, from a 5-9 mm long spathe at the base of the leaf; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 5-11 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; flowers greenish white with light purple spots; dorsal sepal broadly ovate, concave, acuminate, acute, 6 mm long, 4 mm wide; lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute lamina 6 mm long, 5 mm wide; petals widespreading, cream with purple spots, very narrowly ovate to linear, acute, entire, 6.5 mm long, 0.75 mm wide; lip green with purple dots, broadly cordate-ovate, 4 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the obtuse to rounded apex shortly apiculate, the basal angles erect, obtuse, the disc with a small pair of papillae in the center; column stout, 1 mm long, 2 mm wide, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *poly-* (πολυ-), "many-," and *stictos* (στικτος), "dotted," in reference to the multiple rose-purple spots on the flowers.

TYPE: PANAMA: DARIEN: Cerro Pirre, July 1977, R. L. Dressler s.n., cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 77-2600B, flowered in cult. 27 March 1978, *C. Luer 2799* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION : Eastern Panama.

This delicate little species differs from *P. pallida* and its host of relatives in the narrow leaves, the few-flowered raceme of translucent greenish white, rose-spotted flowers with entire petals and a broadly cordate, apiculate lip with a tiny pair of calli in the center of the disc.