

**Scaphosepalum viviparum** Luer, sp. nov.

Inter species generis *Scaphosepali* Pfitz. planta parva vel mediocri, pedunculis ramiferis viviparis, sepalis albovirescentibus rubromaculatis, carinis caudisque sepalorum lateralium laciniatis, petalis pentangulatis obtusis, labello subpandurato lobo antico ovato deflexo denticulato disco bilamellato distinctitur.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems unifoliate, 5-12 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, petiolate, elliptical, carinate dorsally, 4-7 cm long including the 1.5-3 cm long petiole, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, the subacute apex tridenticulate, the base cuneate into the channeled petiole. Inflorescence a successively flowering raceme, the peduncle branching irregularly and frequently developing plantlets at the nodes, up to 16 cm long, from a node near the base of the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, 3-4 mm long; pedicel 5 mm long; ovary 4-5 mm long; sepals greenish white suffused with purple within below the middle, diffusely and irregularly spotted with red-purple, the middle sepal ovate, 9 mm long, 3 mm wide unspread, tricarinate, the acute apex with revolute margins prolonged into a pink tail, the lateral sepals connate to near the apices into a concave, subquadrate synsepal, 8 mm long, 5.5 mm wide together unspread, bicarinate, the carinae deeply laciniate with a few laciniae extending along the 4 mm long decurved tails, the cushions ovate, dull yellow; petals purple, 5-angled, dolabriform, the obtuse apex white, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, subacutely angled on the upper margin, broadly obtusely angled on the lower margin; lip bright purple-pink, oblong-subpanduriform, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, deflexed and abruptly constricted above the middle, the anterior lobe ovate, the rounded apex denticulate, subquadrate and shallowly concave below the anterior lobe, the disc with a pair of rounded, slightly denticulate lamellae straddling the junction with the anterior lobe, the truncate base hinged to the column-foot; column cream suffused with red, arcuate, 3 mm long, narrowly long-winged above the middle, the foot thick, 2.5 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *viviparus*, "bearing plantlets as offshoots from the parent," from *vivus*, "living," and *-parus*, "bearing" (*parere*, "to bear, to bring forth"), hence live-bearing in reference to the habit of bearing plantlets on the peduncle.

TYPE: PANAMA: VERAGUAS: epiphytic in cloud forest on Cerro Tute, alt. 900 m, Jan. 1977, R. L. Dressler s.n., cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 77-3, flowered in cult. 21 Aug. 1977, *C. Luer 1820* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Some species of pleurothallids normally produce a succession of secondary stems, each from the apex of another. Plants are frequently formed or propagated when roots develop at the bases of individual secondary stems. Under abnormal circumstances, plantlets may also develop at the apex of the secondary stem of species in which the secondary stems are not normally prolific. Except for *Scaphosepalum viviparum*, I know of no species of pleurothallid that produces plantlets (keikis) normally or abnormally from the peduncle. Also apparently unique in the subtribe is the frequent branching of the peduncle of this species. The flower is most remarkable in the fringed carinae of the synsepal, and the narrow constriction above the middle of the lip at the point of deflexion of the anterior lobe.