

40. PLEUROTHALLIS FUEGII var. **echinata** L. Wms., var. nov.<sup>1</sup>

Small, caespitose, epiphytic herbs up to about 4 cm. tall. Secondary stems very short, up to about 3 mm. long, covered with loose sheaths. Leaves 10–17 mm. long and 3–6 mm. broad, oval to oblong-obovate, obtuse, attenuated into a slender petiole at the base. Inflorescence exceeding the leaves, a simple few-flowered raceme. Dorsal sepal 8–9 mm. long and 1.5–2 mm. broad, lanceolate, long-acuminate. Lateral sepals connate to about the middle, about 7–9 mm. long and together about 3 mm. broad, the segments lanceolate, long-acuminate. Petals 2.5–3 mm. long and 0.6–1 mm. broad, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse. Lip about 3.5 mm. long and about 1.5 mm. broad, short-unguiculate, oblong-ovate, obtuse, constricted toward the middle. Ovary echinate.

Endemic in Panama.

CHIRIQUÍ: Volcán de Chiriquí, alt. about 2720 m., *Davidson 981* (TYPE in Herb. Ames).

The variety *echinata* differs from the species in having an echinate ovary, narrower petals, larger flowers, and larger leaves. The material is not as good as might be desired, and more adequate material may show it to be a distinct species.