

**PLEUROTHALLIS EXESILABIA** Heller & Hawkes, sp. nov.

Planta caespitosa, parva. Foliis crassis, oblanceolatis, tridentatis. Inflorescentia singula, filiformis, 3-4-floribus succedaneis producens. Labellum panduratum, exesum, inflatum, foramen in medio discum occuparum.

Plant caespitose, small, in bloom to 4 cm tall, the secondary stems almost obsolete, 3 mm long, concealed by scarious white sheaths. Leaves thickly coriaceous, 1.2 cm long, including a petiole of about 2 mm, 3.5 mm broad above the middle, oblanceolate, tridentate at the apex. Inflorescence solitary, to 4 cm in length, the peduncle filiform, reddish, bearing a solitary infundibuliform nract near middle and 3 or 4 flowers, these opening successively. Floral bracts tubular, 1 mm long. Flowers opening well, about 1 cm long, the sepals and petals pale greenish-yellow with reddish longitudinal veins, the lip reddish-brown with pale greenish-yellow basal portion, the column greenish-yellow, reddish between wings on anterior surface. Pedicels persistent, the pedicellate ovary reddish, 4 mm long. Sepals lanceolate, acute to subacuminate, with strongly serrated margins, 6 mm long, the dorsal 1.5 mm broad, with 3 carinate nerves, the laterals free almost to base, lanceolate, vaguely falcate, with 2 carinate nerves, 1.8 mm broad below the middle. Petals ovate, long-acuminate, concave, sparsely toothed above middle, 1-nerved, 3 mm long and 1 mm broad. Lip pandurate, 2.5 mm long and 0.8 mm broad, hollow and inflated, the opening at center of disc, with 2 small teeth on claw and a large and broad falcate porrect lobule on each side at base of lamina, these lobules with incurved apices; callus raised, smooth, extending from claw to middle of lip, narrowly retuse at base; above the opening at the middle of the lip there is a slight swelling, but up from there to apex the lip is concave; apex of lip rounded, blunt, with long pilose hairs on margins and underside. Column 1.9 mm long, slender, somewhat arcuate, shallowly winged, with an entire apex; anther white, ovoid, contracted to a truncate apical neck, the 2 pollinia white.

NICARAGUA: Dept. Jinotega: near Finca Santa Elena, Matagalpa - Jinotega Highway, on fallen branch with Pleurothallis fuegii Rchb. f., alt. 4510 feet, in bloom July 1962, A. H. Heller 6497 (Type in Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium of Harvard University).

In habit, structure of the sepals and petals, as well as general shape of the lip, this remarkable novelty is reminiscent of Pleurothallis samacensis Ames, of Guatemala and Costa Rica. It differs, however, in the hollow lip, this with a small orbicular opening at the center of the disc. The apical portion of the labellum, further, bears long hairs which are lacking in P. samacensis.

The specific name is derived from the Latin, exesus, hollowed out, and labium, lip or laebellum.

Plate 7. Pleurothallis exesilabia Heller & Hawkes, sp. nov.

