

Pleurothallis fractiflexa A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba parva, epiphytica, caespitosa. Caules minuti, monophylli. Folium spathulato-oblancheolatum, inferne sensim angustatum. Inflorescentiae plures, axillares, folia multo superantes, laxiflorae. Sepala lateralialia in laminam lanceolato-ellipticam bidentatam connata. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-lanceolatum, concavum. Petala falcato-lanceolata, apice incrassato pubescenti. Labellum minus, panduratum.

Plant small, caespitose, 6–7 cm. high. Roots fibrous, filiform, flexuous, glabrous. Stems minute, about 4 mm. long, enveloped by 2 scarious tubular sheaths. Leaf solitary, erect, spatulate-oblancheolate, about 1.3–2.8 cm. long, 2.5–4.6 mm. wide, acute and obscurely tridenticulate at the apex, very gradually narrowed to a petioled base, margined, coriaceous. Inflorescences very flexuous, twice surpassing the leaf or more, filiform, lax; rachis fractiflex, 2- to 28-flowered, flowers loose. Lateral sepals connate into a lanceolate-elliptical lamina, about 6 mm. long, bidentate with acute teeth, dorsally bicarinate, sparsely ciliate, rather closely pubescent through the center within, 4-nerved. Dorsal sepal oblong-lanceolate, 6.4–7 mm. long, 2 mm. wide near the base, acute, 3-nerved, uncarinate on the outer surface, concave, ciliate. Petals falcate-lanceolate, 5.1–5.8 mm. long, about 1.2 mm. wide across the oblong basal part, rather abruptly narrowed into the anterior half which is linear, apical portion slightly dilated, much thickened, subterete and pubescent, 1-nerved. Labellum pandurate, somewhat convex in natural position, about 2.6 mm. long; claw minute oblong, membranaceous; lamina with a pair of slender auricles at base, broadly rounded at the apex, margins of the basal half somewhat erect and minutely pubescent, those of the anterior half revolute and long-ciliate. Disc traversed throughout by a pair of keels which enclose a median groove or channel. Column arcuate, 2 mm. long at the back, winged, the wing 3-toothed at the summit and the middle tooth bidentate, the lateral membranaceous wings adnate to the short broad foot.

Pleurothallis fractiflexa is allied to *P. casualis* Ames, but it differs from that species in its relatively long inflorescences, longer narrower lateral sepals and petals and dissimilar lip. Vegetatively it recalls *P. quinqueseta* Ames.

The specific name refers to the fractiflex rachis of the raceme.

The description was drawn from dried plants.

COSTA RICA, Province of Heredia, Yerba Buena, Northeast of San Isidro, *Paul C. Standley & Juvenal Valerio* 49902, February 22, 28, 1926. About 2000 meters altitude. "On tree; flowers dark purple-red." (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 33373); *Standley & Valerio* 49910.