

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
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A NEW SPECIES OF PLEUROTHALLIS FROM
CENTRAL AMERICA.

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Eight years ago I described a new Costa Rican species of *Pleurothallis* of the section *Sarcodanthae* (*Prorepentes*). This species was of more than passing interest because it had no known close allies in the Central American flora. To find any species approaching it in vegetative and floral characters one had to look toward Cuba and *Pleurothallis nummularia* Reichb. f. (1865). The new *Pleurothallis* was named *P. peperomioides* in allusion to the tiny orbicular leaves which suggest some diminutive, creeping species of *Peperomia* (cf. Ames, Sched. Orch. 7 (1924) t. 4). Until 1927, *P. peperomioides* remained the only representative in Central America of its special alliance in the section *Sarcodanthae* (*Prorepentes*), although approached by several species recently described by Schlechter.

In 1927, Paul C. Standley discovered in Spanish Honduras another species of identical habit. Unfortunately Standley's material was incomplete through the absence of the labellum from the only flower found. The Honduran plant differed markedly from the Costa Rican and Cuban species in having the ovary and sepals smooth rather than hispidulose, but it was nevertheless incomplete and could not be properly described.

In 1930, I received from Guatemala excellent material that was vegetatively indistinguishable from Standley's Honduran specimens and that resembled them in having the ovary and sepals quite smooth. These specimens were collected by Margaret Ward Lewis near Puerto Barrios. There seems to be little doubt that the Guatemalan and Honduran plants are identical and constitute a new species.

Pleurothallis Lewisae Ames, sp. nov.

Rhizoma repens. Caules secundarii abbreviati, distichi, monophylli. Folium carnosum, ovale vel orbiculare, apice rotundatum et minute tridentatum. Pedunculus folio brevior, pauciflorus, solitarius vel geminatus. Sepala lateralia oblongo-lanceolata, acuta, trinervia, glabra. Sepalum dorsale simile, valde concavum. Petala oblonga, uninervia, apiculata, glandulosa. Labellum oblongum, valde acutum, carnosum, glandulosum, trinervium, margine prope medium labelli utrinque lobulato, lobulis triangularibus acutis. Columna superne dilatata et irregulariter fimbriata. Capsula glabra.

In habit similar to *P. nummularia* Reichb. f. and *P. peperomioides* Ames. Rhizome creeping and closely appressed to the bark of trees on which the plant is epiphytic. Secondary stems 2.5–6 mm. long, distichous, directed obliquely forward, concealed by scarious, nervose sheaths, monophyllous. Leaves 6–10 mm. long, 5–6.5 mm. wide, oval to orbicular with the surface minutely pustulose and glossy, minutely tridentate at the rounded apex, the middle tooth subulate and equaling the others. Peduncle simple or often geminate, shorter than or equaling the leaf, sheathed at base, usually 2–3-flowered, the flowers opening in succession. Pedicels subtended by ample hispidulose, infundibuliform sheaths. Ovary smooth. Lateral sepals smooth, 5 mm. long (including the mentum), about 1 mm. wide, free almost to the base, oblong-lanceolate, acute, 3-nerved, yellow. Dorsal sepal similar, 5 mm. long, strongly concave, cymbiform, 3-nerved. Petals purplish, about 4 mm. long, scarcely 1 mm. wide, oblong, 1-nerved, abruptly rounded at the apex where they are shortly apiculate, surface and margins densely and minutely glandulose. Labellum about 2.5 mm. long, purplish, densely and minutely glandulose, oblong, acute, fleshy, 3-nerved, with a triangular lobule on each side near the middle. Column about 2 mm. long, slender at the base, dilated upward, margin of the clinandrium irregularly fringed.

GUATEMALA, Department of Izabal, near Puerto Barrios. On mango tree about 40 miles from the coast. 175 feet altitude. *Margaret Ward Lewis* 2, August, 1930. (Type in Herb. Ames no. 36530).

HONDURAS, Department of Atlántida, Lancetilla Valley near Tela. Flowers dark brown-red. *Paul C. Standley* 55202, December 6, 1927–March 20, 1928.

The glabrous sepals and ovary, the lobulate labellum and the two-or more-flowered inflorescence serve to distinguish *P. Lewisae* from its congeners.