

*Pleurothallis guttata* C. Luer, sp. nov.

Herba parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevibus vaginis absconditis unifoliatis, folio coriaceo elliptico apice rotundato emarginato base cuneato petiolato, racemo descendenti paucifloro, flores successivis, sepalis pellucidis purpureo guttatis, sepalo dorsali oblongo-ovato obtuso, synsepalo ovato cymbiformi bicarinato, petalis conspicuis purpureis obovatis acutis minute erosis, labello purpureo elliptico obtuso concavo serrato, columna longialata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems short, 6-8 mm long, concealed by 1-2 tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse to rounded, emarginate with a mucro in the sinus, the base cuneate into a short petiole about 1 cm long, the leaf 3-5 cm long, including the petiole, 15-22 mm wide. Inflorescence a descending, few-flowered (2-5) raceme, 3-6 cm long, the flowers produced singly and successively; peduncle slender, with a few distantly spaced bracts, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, 2 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary green, flecked with purple, 2 mm long; sepals translucent pale yellow-green with irregular blotches of purple; dorsal sepal oblong-ovate, obtuse, concave, 9 X 4-6 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into an ovate synsepal, obtuse, emarginate, cymbiform, bicarinate, 8-10 X 5-6 mm; petals red-purple, obovate, acute, the margins minutely erose above the middle, 7-8 X 3 mm, 3-veined; lip red-purple, elliptical, navicular, the margins irregularly serrate, the apex narrowly obtuse and shortly deflexed, the base broadly hinged to the column-foot, 7-9 X 2.5-3 mm, 3-veined; column 3 mm long, with broad, long wings extending to the bottom of the short column-foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *guttatus*, "spotted," in allusion to the conspicuously spotted sepals.

TYPE: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic in the region of Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 15 Oct. 1967, R. L. Dressler 3086 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic along the Altos de Pacora road, alt. 650 m, 4 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 1064 (SEL), flowered in cult. 16 Aug. 1976; epiphytic on Cerro Campana, alt. 1000 m, Aug. 1975, R. L. Dressler s.n. (SEL), flowered in cult. 2 Aug. 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This pretty little species grows in dense tufts of broad, blunt leaves. The inflorescence emerges from the side of the short secondary stem, rises within the sheath, if it is still intact, then immediately upon surpassing it, the apex descends and elongates to bear the flowers in slow succession either pendently or along the underlying tree bark. The purple-spotted sepals of the delicate flowers are translucent pale yellow-green so that the large maroon petals can be easily seen. Between them extends the relatively large, boat-shaped lip with serrated edges.

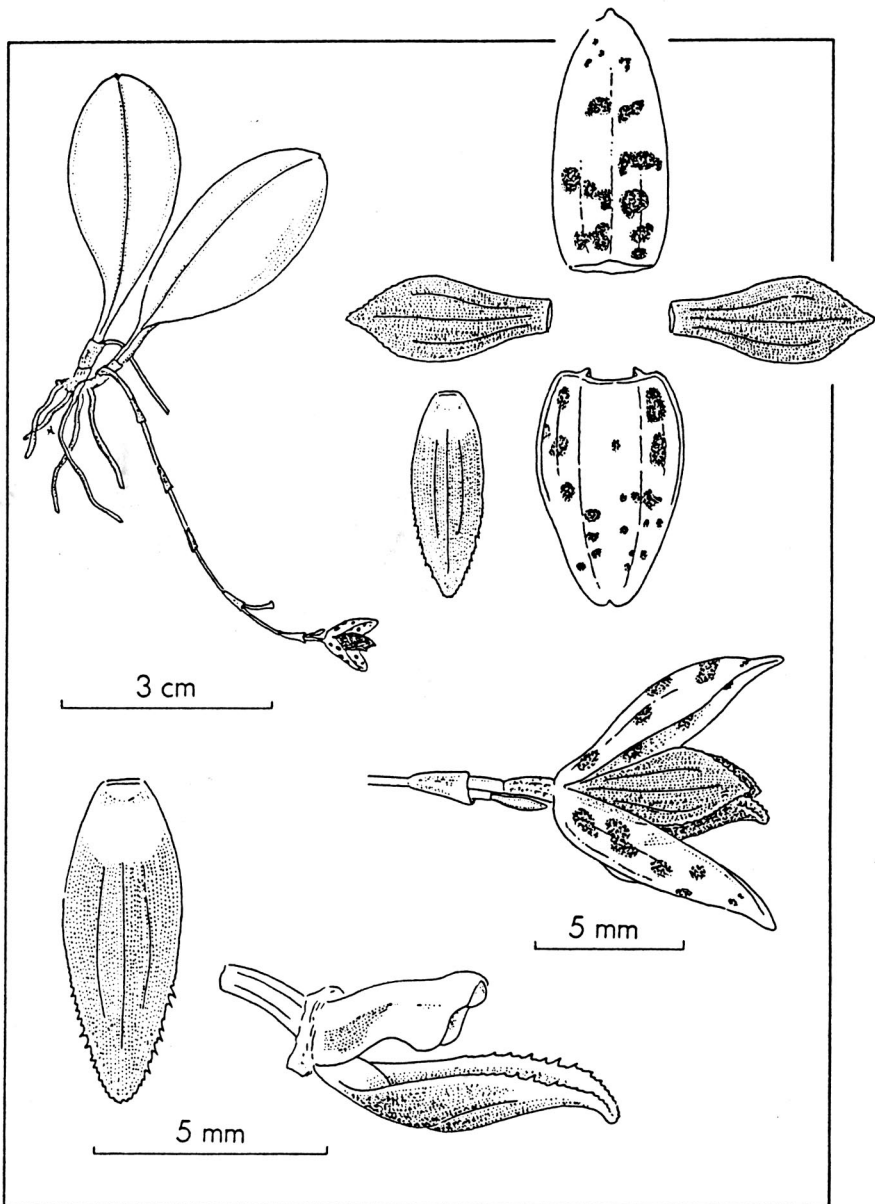


Figure 161. PLEUROTHALLIS GUTTATA C. A. Luer