

**Pleurothallis membraniflora** C. Schweinfurth  
*sp. nov.*

Herba nana, epiphytica, caespitosa. Radices fibrosae. Caules graciles, vaginis arctis tubularibus cum ostiis ciliatis omnino obtecti. Folia obovata, in sicco coriacea, marginata. Racemi fasciculati, laxe pauciflori. Flores parvi, membranacei. Sepala dorso carinata. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-lanceolatum, trinervium. Sepala lateralia omnino libera, anguste triangulari-lanceolata, leviter falcata, uninervia. Petala perparva, inconspicua, elliptico-ligulata. Labellum simplex, oblongum, apice basique late rotundatum, trinervium. Columna late bialata.

Plant dwarf, caespitose, up to 4.8 cm. tall. Roots fibrous, numerous, glabrous, as stout as the stems. Stems slender, bearing one or more leaves, up to 5 cm. long (an old stem), commonly 3.3 cm. or less long, closely and entirely invested by usually four to seven tubular nerve-angulate minutely hispid sheaths which terminate in spreading ovate marginate ciliate mouths. Leaves obovate, gradually narrowed to a shortly petioled base; lamina up to 9 mm. long, 4-5 mm. wide, marginate, minutely bilobed and apiculate at the rounded apex, erect, coriaceous, with the apical margins minutely cartilaginous-serrulate. Inflorescences fascicled at the apex of the stems and frequently also at several lower nodes of the stem, loosely up to 4-flowered. Flowers very small, membranaceous. Sepals parallel, about equally long. Dorsal sepal oblong-lanceolate, subacute, concave, about 3 mm. long and 1.5 mm. wide, 3-nerved through the lower half with the nerves prominently carinate on the outer surface. Lateral sepals entirely free, narrowly triangular-lanceolate, slightly falcate, scarcely 3 mm. long, about 0.9 mm. wide, acute, 1-nerved with a prominent keel on the outer surface. Petals very small and diaphanous, about 1 mm. long and 0.25 mm. wide, about equaling the column, narrowly elliptic-ligulate, acute or subacute, oblique at the apex, 1-nerved through the lower half. Lip simple, oblong, membranaceous, subsessile, about 1.4 mm. long and 0.6 mm. wide, very slightly broader near the base, broadly rounded at base and apex, with three approximate nerves, slightly undulate on the margins. Column inconspicuous, about 1 mm. long, winged on each side throughout.

*Pleurothallis membraniflora* is vegetatively very similar to *P. Broadwayi* Ames, but is distinct in having minute petals and an entirely simple oblong lip without any thickenings.