

***Pleurothallis tantilla* Luer, sp. nov.**

Habitu *P. foliatae* Griseb. similis, sed sepalo dorsali oblongo nec acuminato nec concavo, petalis longioribus, labello infra medium latiore et columna nonalata differt.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose to scandent; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, 1.5-2 cm long, proliferative, each stem concealed by 2-4 lepanthiform sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse to rounded, tridenticulate, the base cuneate to rounded, short-petiolate veined in purple, $7-15 \times 5-8$ mm, the petiole about 1 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, few-to several-flowered, flexuous raceme, 1.5-3.5 cm long, the peduncle filiform, from the apex of a secondary stem within the upper sheath; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 2-4 mm long; ovary 0.25 mm long; flowers widely spread, yellowish with purplish veins; dorsal sepal oblong, acute, $3.5-4 \times 1.25-1.75$ mm, 3-veined, the veins prominent dorsally; lateral sepals free, narrowly triangular, oblique, acute, $2.5-4 \times 1-1.5$ mm, 1-veined; petals obovate, slightly oblique, subacute, $1.5-2 \times 0.6-1$ mm, 1-veined; lip ovate, arcuate, the apex obtuse to rounded, thickened, minutely papillose, the sides below the middle dilated and broadly rounded and curved up in the natural position, the base rounded and broadly hinged to the column-foot; disc with a pair of converging calli near the middle, $1.5-2.5 \times 1-1.5$ mm; column slender, wingless, 1-1.5 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *tantillus*, "so little," in reference to the size of the plant.

TYPE: PANAMA: COCLE: epiphytic in cloud forest above El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 6 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 1078 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); epiphytic in orange grove above El Valle, alt. ca. 1000 m, 2 Sept. 1976, C. Luer & H. Butcher 1122 (SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: PANAMA: PANAMA: La Eneida region of Cerro Jefe, 3 July 1971, R. L. Dressler 4041 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Vegetatively this small species appears identical to the widespread *Pleurothallis foliata* Griseb. *Pleurothallis tantilla* may be recognized by the raceme of tiny, yellowish flowers, strongly marked with purple. The flowers have a different aspect. The erect dorsal sepal is neither concave nor acuminate. The lip is decidedly widest below the middle, but otherwise the apex and the calli are very similar to those of *P. foliata*. The wings of the column of the latter are comparatively large and well developed, but the column of *P. tantilla* is wingless.