

*Pleurothallis aberrans* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis horizontalibus vel descendentibus supra medium leviter compressis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis obtusis base rotundatis caulibus 1 cm longe decurrentibus, racemo brevi paucifloro, floribus glabris carnosis viridibus, sepalo dorsale oblongo-spatulato obtuso crasso, sepalis lateralibus in laminam oblongam bidentatam connatis mentum formantibus, petalis truncatis apiculatis bicallosis, labello atrovirenti pyriformi longi-unguiculato prope basim laminae bicalloso etiam supra medium bicalloso.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, shortly repent to caespitose; roots slender, fasciculate. Secondary stems horizontal to descending, 4-8 cm long, terete below, provided with a loose, tubular sheath and a shorter one at the base, slightly compressed and shallowly channeled above, flanked by the base of the leaf for 10-12 mm. Leaf coriaceous, oblong-elliptical, obtuse, flat, the base rounded, with the sides decurrent on the stem. Inflorescence a short (4 cm), few-flowered (5-6), pendent raceme lying against the leaf, the flowers opening simultaneously, the peduncle about 1 cm long, from a narrow spathe about 1 cm long, from the apex of the secondary stem, about 1 cm above the base of the leaf; floral bract oblique, acute, 4 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary dark green, glabrous, 1.5-2 mm long; flowers bilabiate, fleshy, glabrous, green; dorsal sepal oblong-spatulate, concave below the middle, thickened and semi-terete above, the apex obtuse, apiculate, 10 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, subcarinate at the base; lateral sepals connate into an oblong lamina, bifid and biapiculate at the obtuse apex, the margins microscopically scabrous below the middle, forming a mentum with the column-foot, 9 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, 6-veined; petals oblique, rectangular, truncate at the apex, apiculate, the margins thin, with a pair of thick, longitudinal calli terminating in a pair of smooth tuberosities near the corners of the truncate apex, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, translucent greenish white, veined in green; lip deep green, the thick, arcuate, pyriform blade 2 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, abruptly narrowed into a slender claw 1 mm long, broadly rounded to truncate at the apex, the very narrow, hyalin margin minutely erose, the disc with a pair of calli at the junction with the claw, and with a prominent pair of pyramidal calli above the middle; column slender, light green, 3 mm long, the foot thick, 2 mm long, the anther cap pilose along the upper margin.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *aberrans* (ab-, "away," and *errare*, "to err, or to stray"), "straying from the usual," in reference to the unusual characteristics of the species.

TYPE: PANAMA: VERAGUAS: epiphytic in tree north of the continental divide, alt. ca. 700 m, above Santa Fé, 6 Sept. 1976, C. Luer & R. L. Dressler 1628 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 123-76-15, flowered in cult. 6 June 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Only one plant of this unusual species was found on a fallen tree limb beside the muddy trail in the cloud forest on the Caribbean side of the continental divide of the province of Veraguas in central Panama. Vegetatively it resembles *Pleurothallis circumplexa* Lindl., *P. pacayana* Schltr., or *P. pantasmi* Rchb. f. because the inflorescence emerges from the blade of the leaf above the base. The sides of the base are decurrent on the stem, but the stem is only minimally compressed, not winged as it is in the other species. Superficially the green, glabrous, gaping flowers in the short raceme resemble those of *P. cogniauxiana* Schltr., *P. decipiens* Ames & Schweinf., and *P. vercunda* Schltr. (as well as many others). The petals and lip, however, are distinctive. The bicallose, truncate petals end in a short apiculum. A pair of pointed calli rest near the center of the deep green, long-handled, paddle-shaped lip.