

Pleurothallis aurita *C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba parva, pro subgenere gracilis, caespitosa. Caulles basi decumbentes, filiformes, apice monophylli. Folium ellipticum vel elliptico-lanceolatum, coriaceum, apice ob-

tuso minute bilobulatum, sessile. Inflorescentiae in folii axilla fasciculatae, uniflorae, vagina conduplicata subtenta. Flores perparvi, bilabiati. Sepalum dorsale ovale, apice rotundatum, trinervium. Sepala lateralialia in laminam semiorbicularem, in positu naturali semiurceolatam, omnino connata. Petala minuta, spathulato-oblonga, apice rotundata. Labellum in positu naturali conico-hemisphaericum cum auriculis binis lineari-lanceolatis erectis intus basi callosis praeditum. Columna generis.

Plant small, up to 10 cm. high to the apex of the leaf, caespitose. Roots fibrous, flexuous, whitish, glabrous. Stem filiform, decumbent at base, up to 6.8 cm. long, unifoliate at the apex, covered below the middle with three close tubular imbricating sheaths (the uppermost much the longest) which are evanescent with age. Leaf solitary, elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, sessile, up to 4 cm. long and 1.2 cm. wide, minutely bilobed and apiculate at the obtuse apex, erect or more commonly spreading, coriaceous, with the mid-nerve generally conspicuously prominent beneath. Inflorescences 1-flowered, fascicled in the axil of the leaf, subtended by an erect conduplicate spathe which is about 1 cm. long. Flowers very small, bilabiate. Dorsal sepal oval, subacute at the rounded apex, about 3.7 mm. long and 2.4 mm. wide, 3-nerved, slightly concave, somewhat carinate through the basal half on the outer surface. Lateral sepals entirely connate into a lamina which is semiurceolate in natural position, when expanded the lamina is semiorbicular, 4-nerved, about 3 mm. long and 4 mm. wide, with the anterior margins somewhat recurved. Petals small, spatulate-oblong, 1-nerved, about 1.6 mm. long and 0.8 mm. wide near the apex which is rounded fleshy and more or less oblique. Lip conic-hemispherical in natural position, about 1.5 mm. long and 1 mm. wide, 3-nerved, apiculate; at the base there is a pair of erect linear-lanceolate, slight-

ly sigmoid auricles about 1.8 mm. long, furnished inside at the base with a large tuberculate ovoid callus (the calli of the parallel auricles contiguous). Column short, stout, dorso-ventrally complanate, about 1.5 mm. long.

Pleurothallis aurita is allied to *P. concaviflora* C. Schweinf., but is dissimilar in having shorter blunter sepals, spatulate-oblong petals and lip with a pair of long basal auricles. It differs from *P. saccatilabia* C. Schweinf. in its much smaller petals and elongate basal auricles of the lip.

COSTA RICA : vicinity of El General, Province of San José, at 1100 meters altitude, flowers yellow, November 1936, *Alexander F. Skutch 2941* (TYPE in Herb. Ames 55415).