

Pleurothallis citrophila Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis horizontalibus purpureis breviter compressis unifoliatis, folio horizontali crasso coriaceo purpureo elliptico sessili, racemo brevi paucifloro, floribus carnosis glabris flavovirescentibus porphyreo suffusis vittatisque, sepalo dorsali anguste obovato, sepalis lateralibus ovatis obliquis acutis leviter adherentibus, petalis obovatis obtusis minute erosis, labello crasso ovato obtuso eroso callis denticulatis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems more or less horizontal, purple, slender to stout, terete below, compressed above, 3-8 cm long, with a tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliate. Leaf horizontal, thick, coriaceous, suffused with purple, especially beneath, elliptical, acute to subacute, tridenticulate, the base rounded, sessile, 3.5-6 cm long, 1.8-2.5 cm wide. Inflorescence a short (3 cm), few-flowered (4-5), distichous raceme borne upon the leaf, from a spathe 6-10 mm long, at the base of the leaf; flowers fleshy, glabrous, yellow-green suffused and veined with red-brown; floral bract 1.5-2 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary glabrous, 2 mm long; dorsal sepal narrowly obovate, acute, 8 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; lateral sepals narrowly ovate, oblique, acute, lightly adherent to free, each 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; petals narrowly obovate, obtuse, microscopically erose above the middle, 2.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; lip thick, yellow-brown, ovate, obtuse, minutely erose, the margins rounded and erect below the middle, the base broadly rounded, shortly hinged to the column-foot, the disc with a pair of denticulate, verrucose, longitudinal calli, 3.25 mm long, 2 mm wide spread; column terete, 3 mm long, with a foot 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *kitrea*, "citrus," and *-philus*, "loving," in reference to the apparent preference of the plant for citrus trees.

TYPE: PANAMA: COCLÉ: epiphytic in old orange grove near the mesa above El Valle, alt. ca. 1000 m, 2 Sept. 1976, C. Luer & H. Butcher 1375 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 123-76-82, flowered in cult. 12 March 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Although it undoubtedly occurs in the surrounding cloud forest, this species was found growing only in several old orange groves above El Valle, Panama. The plants grow horizontally from the branches, and with the weight of the thick leaves, often bend downward. Short racemes of brownish flowers are produced upon the leaves. Of the other Panamanian species, *Pleurothallis citrophila* is allied to *P. pubescens* Lindl., but the flower of the former is distinguished by its smaller size, absence of pubescence, and a lip lacking lateral lobes and basal auricles. It is more closely allied to *P. geminicaulina* Ames, but the flowers of the latter are shortly pubescent, the petals are acuminate, and the calli of the lip are not denticulate. It seems most closely allied to *P. brunnescens* Schltr., which also has glabrous flowers, but the lip lacks the denticulate calli.

