

***Pleurothallis mammillata* C. A. Luer, sp. nov.**

Herba parva epiphytica breviter repens, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis anguste ellipticis acutis base cuneatis vel indistincte petiolatis, racemo debile multifloro folio longiore, floribus pallido-viridibus, sepalo dorsali ovato concavo acuminato, synsepalo ovato marginibus involutis, petalis carnosis oblongis curvatis apice crasso obtuso, labello crasso obovato obtuso ad medium geniculato, disco e basi canaliculato ad medium bimammillato.

Plant small, epiphytic, shortly creeping to subcaespitose; roots fine, flexuous, numerous. Secondary stems terete, slender, 1.5-5 cm long, with 2 ribbed sheaths below the middle, unifoliolate. Leaf coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, tridentulate, the base cuneate to indistinctly short-petiolate, 3-6 cm X 9-15 mm. Inflorescence a weak, distichous, many-flowered raceme, up to 11 cm long, with up to 30 pale green, bilabiate flowers; peduncle slender, from a 4-6 mm spathe at the apex of the stem; floral bracts about 1 mm long; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary faintly verrucose, 1-1.5 mm long; dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acuminate, acute, 3-4.5 X 1-1.5 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into an ovate synsepal, narrowly obtuse, the lateral margins involute, 3-4.5 X 1.5-2 mm, 4-veined; petals fleshy, oblong, curved, the apex obtuse and thickened, 1.25 X 0.4 mm; lip thick, obovate, obtuse, geniculate near the middle, the base broadly unguiculate, the disc shallowly channeled from the base to the middle where the channel disappears between a pair of small conical callosities, 1 X 0.8 mm; column stout, terete, 0.5 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *mammillatus* (*mammilla*, "nipple"), "having small nipple-like tuberosities," in allusion to the callosities on the disc.

TYPE: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 2 March 1976, C. Luer, H. Butcher, J. Luer & P. Taylor 951 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), flowered in cult. 12 April 1976.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: PANAMA: epiphytic along the Altos de Pacora road, alt. 650 m, C. Luer, R. Dressler, J. Luer & P. Taylor 952 (SEL); COLÓN: Santa Rita lumber road, 27 March 1968, R. L. Dressler 3464 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This little, inconspicuous species is apparently frequent and locally abundant in eastern Panama. It is a diminutive member of Section *Acronia*, and a relative of the spectacular *Pleurothallis phalangifera* (Presl) Rchb. f., but superficially similar to *P. pruinosa* Lindl. with which it probably has been identified in the past.

The narrow, dark green leaves are rigid in contrast to the long, slender, fragile raceme which extends beyond the end of the blade. The numerous, tiny, pale green flowers, arranged in a two sided raceme, are widely gaping with a cucullate dorsal sepal, and with the sides of the united lateral sepals rolled in. The fleshy petals are thickened at the blunt apex. The lip is deflexed near the middle, rounded and broadest above the middle and obtuse, and provided with a minute pair of nipple-like processes near the center.

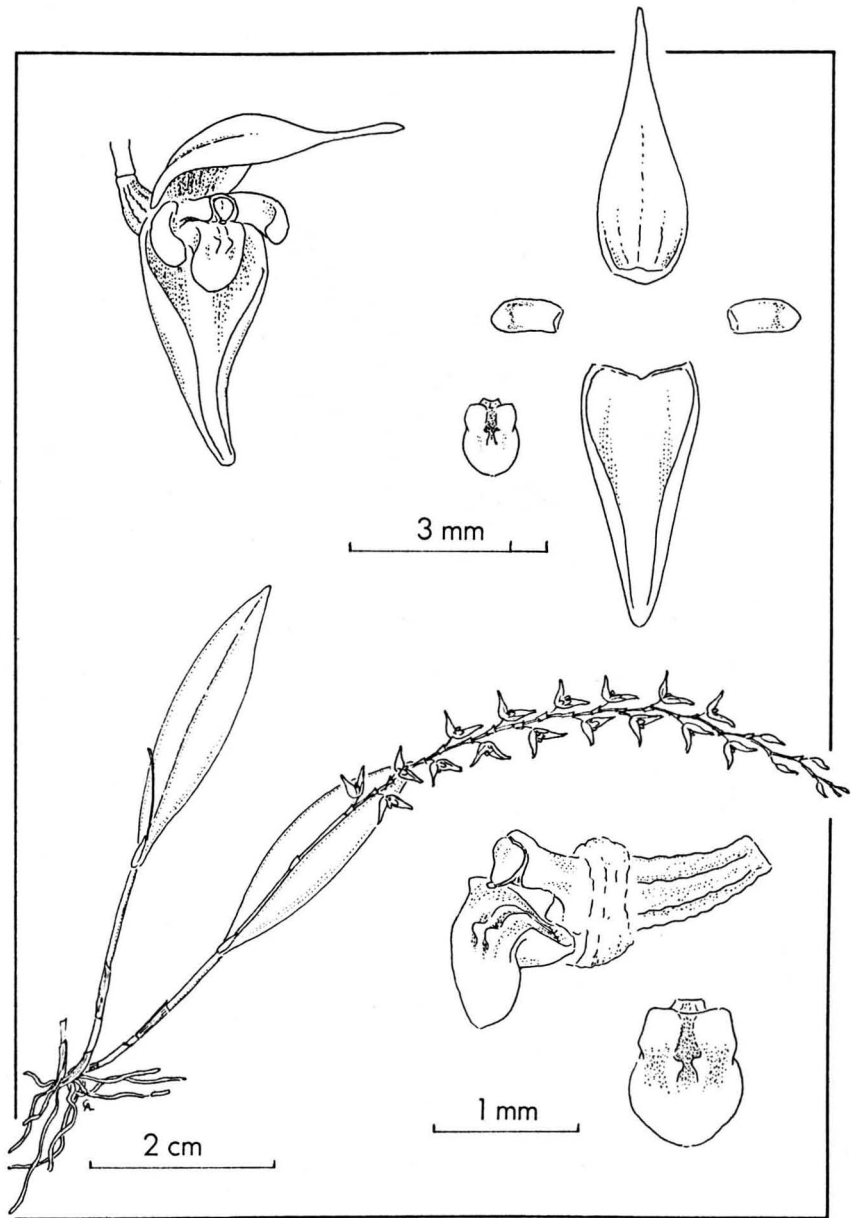


Figure 172. *PLEUROTHALLIS MAMMILLATA* C. A. Luer