

A NEW PLEUROTHALLIS FROM MEXICO

BY

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AMONG the interesting orchids collected by E. Matuda in the south of Mexico is the following one belonging to the large group of rather closely allied species centering around *Pleurothallis cardiothallis* Reichb.f. Its floral characters, however, apparently do not permit of its inclusion in any known species.

***Pleurothallis Matudiana* C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.**

Herba mediocris, caespitosa. Caules numerosi, basi et infra medium vagina tubulari ornati. Folium singulum, saepissime erectum, oblongo-ovatum vel ovatum, basi cordatum. Inflorescentiae uniflorae, fasciculatae. Flores parvi, ringentes, bilabiati. Sepalum dorsale valde concavum, ovatum. Sepala lateralia in laminam acriter bidentatam late ovatam connata. Petala anguste linearia, inferne crenulata. Labellum ovato-oblongum, crassissimum, acutum. Columna subgeneris.

Plant medium-sized, up to about 32 cm. tall to the tip of the erect leaf. Roots fibrous, numerous, filiform, glabrous. Stems caespitose, numerous, up to about 24 cm. tall, slender, provided at the base and below the middle with a tubular-cylindric scarious evanescent sheath. Leaf solitary, erect or spreading, oblong-ovate or ovate, strongly cordate at the base, about 7.7–11 cm. long including the basal auricles, up to 3.7 cm. wide, acute or acuminate with a minutely tridenticulate tip, coriaceous. Flowers in the sinus between the basal lobules of the leaf, surrounded by a small conduplicate spathe. Flower small, ringent, bilabiate. Dorsal sepal concave, ovate, acute, about 8.7 mm. long in natural position and 5.7 mm. wide, 3-nerved. Lateral sepals connate into a sharply bidentate

lamina which is broadly ovate, about 8.2 mm. long and 4.7 mm. wide, concave below, 6-nerved, bicarinate dorsally. Petals parallel to and surrounding the lip in natural position, slightly exceeding the lip, narrowly linear, slightly falcate below, about 7.5 mm. long and 0.9 mm. wide, acute, 1-nerved, minutely crenulate below. Lip very shortly and broadly unguiculate; lamina ovate-oblong, cordate at base, very thickly fleshy, slightly recurved and longitudinally sulcate in natural position, about 5.2 mm. long from a basal auricle to the tip, 2.7 mm. wide across the dilated base, with a minute incurved apicule at the tip, above the middle minutely crenulate on the margins. Column short, very stout, characteristic of the allied group of species.

Another collection, *E. Matuda S-200*, differs from the type in having shorter stems, smaller more ovate leaves (as small as 6.6 cm. long) and smaller flowers.

Pleurothallis Matudiana is vegetatively similar to many species of the alliance of *P. cardiothallis* Reichb. f. In particular, it differs from the Costa Rican *P. phyllo-cardia* Reichb. f. in having only a small and inconspicuous spathe surrounding the flowers and in having very narrow petals and lip.

MEXICO, State of Chiapas, Siltepec. August 8, 1937. *E. Matuda 1577* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 46687); State of Chiapas, Mt. Pasitar. August 3-4, 1937. *E. Matuda S-200*.