

***Pleurothallis ripleyi* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta grandis caespitosa, caulibus secundariis erectis elatis teretibus ad apicem arcuatis, foliis anguste ovatis vel linearibus declinatis marginibus revolutis base cordatis, spatha magna reclinata, flore singulari successivi nutanti flavovirescenti rebropunctato glabro, sepalo synsepaloque ovato obtuso concavo, petalis oblongis acutis subserratis, labello triangulari apice obtuso angulis basalibus rotundatis glenio discum superanti, columna latissima.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, fasciculate. Secondary stems unifoliate, slender terete, erect, arching toward the apex, 20-38 cm long, with a close, brown, tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base. Leaf coriaceous, declining, descending, arching the normally dorsal surface facing inward and downward, very narrowly ovate to linear, 12-16 cm long, about 1 cm wide with revolute margins, 1.5-1.8 cm wide spread out, the apex acute, acuminate, tridenticulate, the base cordate, sessile. Inflorescence a succession of single, nutant flowers produced from a 15-23 mm long, reclining spathe at the base of the leaf; floral bract ca. 5 mm long; pedicel ca. 7 mm long; ovary 7-8 mm long, olive-green with black dots; sepals not widely spread, deeply concave, glabrous, yellow-green with red dots concentrated near the primary veins, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, obtuse, synsepal 8 mm long, 7 mm wide unspread; petals light red-brown, oblong, 7.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, acute, the margins subserrate; lip rose toward the base, orange toward the apex, triangular-ovate, 4 mm long, 4 mm wide, the apex obtuse, the basal angles rounded, the disc with a shallow cleft, the glenion elevated on a promontory above the deflexed base, column white, stout, 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the foot nearly 2 mm long, red-papillose.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Harold Ripley of San Francisco, California, who discovered and cultivates this species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA - CHINCHIPE? : without definite locality, May 1976, collected by H. Ripley, s.n., cultivated in San Francisco, California, flowered in cult. 15 Dec. 1978, *C. Luer* 3642 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Apparently unique in *Pleurothallis*, the apices of the long secondary stems of this species gently bend or twist to bear their slender, curving, descending leaves in such a manner that the normally upper surface of each leaf faces downward and inward. Consequently, the more or less pendent flowers are borne from the "under surface" of the leaves.