

*Pleurothallis stevensii* Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. longipedicellatae* Ames & Schweinf. affinis sed racemis subdensifloris et floribus brevipedicellatis distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems suberect to ascending, slender, 20-28 cm long, with a close, brown-spotted sheath below the middle, unifoliate. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, ovate, 11-17 cm long, 6-10 cm wide, the apex acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base rounded to shallowly cordate, sessile. Inflorescence racemose, 1-2 reclining, subdensely several (to 15)-flowered racemes 15-18 cm long including the peduncle 6-7 cm long, from a 2.5-3 cm long spathe at the base of the leaf; floral bracts and pedicels each 2-3 mm long; ovary 2-3 mm long; sepals glabrous, pale rose-brown, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 5 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate, concave, obtuse synsepal, 4.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 4-veined; petals yellow, elliptical, oblique, 4 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the apex acuminate, acute, the margins crenate-erose; lip yellow, ovate-sagittate, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex subacute, thickened, the base broadly clawed below subacute, erect, basal angles, the disc with a low callus above the claw; column yellow, stout, 1.5 mm long and wide, with a short, thick foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Dr. Douglas Stevens, investigator of the flora of Central America, who discovered this species.

TYPE: COSTA RICA: ALAJUELA: epiphytic in cloud forest between San Ramon and Balsa, alt. 1100 m, 12 Sept. 1979, *D. Stevens 14253* (HOLOTYPE: SEL; ISOTYPE: MO), C. Luer illustration 4143.

DISTRIBUTION: Costa Rica.

This robust species is closely allied to *P. longipedicellata*, but *P. stevensii* is easily distinguished by the more densely flowered racemes of short-pedicellate flowers.