

errant species of *Epidendrum* which should be referred, in a key erected on vegetative characters, to both the *Acrotonae-Acranthae* and to the *Acrotonae-Pleuranthae*.

STUDIES IN PONTIEVA

BY

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Ponthieva chuquiribambae (*Kränzln.*) *Ames & Schweinfurth, comb. nov.*

Pleurothallis Chuquiribambae Kränzlin in *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien* 44 (1930) 327.

On receipt of habit drawings and detailed floral analyses of the type of *Pleurothallis Chuquiribambae* from the Reichenbach Herbarium at Vienna, it became very evident that this species is a typical member of the genus *Ponthieva*. The characteristically asymmetrical petals adnate, together with the lip, to the upper part of the column are diagnostic for *Ponthieva* and are quite distinct from what obtains in the very distantly related genus *Pleurothallis*.

This species, however, does not appear to be referable to any *Ponthieva* previously described. It is allied to the widespread *P. maculata* Lindl., particularly to the rather dwarf form of the plant found in Central America: but it differs in having apparently narrower connate lateral sepals and a dissimilar markedly unguiculate ovate-triangular lip. Furthermore, *Ponthieva chuquiribambae* appears to differ from the Peruvian *P. villosa* Lindl. in

the narrow connate lateral sepals, the form of the lip and the short (not elongate) rostellum.

Ponthieva parviflora *Ames & Schweinfurth, sp. nov.*

Herba elata, gracilis. Radices tuberosae. Folia basalia, rosulata, elliptico-oblanceolata vel oblanceolata, ad basim petiolatam angustata, acuta. Scapus inferne glaber, superne glanduloso-pubescens. Racemus laxiflorus. Flores parvi. Sepala lateralibus oblique ovata, obtusa. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-lanceolatum, concavum. Petala sepalo dorsali valde adnata, obliquissime deltoideo-rhombica, basi cuneata. Labellum valde concavum, subsessile, apice profunde trilobatum. Columna brevis.

Plant tall, about 40 cm. high. Roots tuberous. Leaves basal, rosulate, five in this single specimen, elliptic-oblanceolate or oblanceolate, gradually narrowed into a petioled base, 13 cm. or less long, up to 2.9 cm. wide, acute, membranaceous. Stem slender, provided with eight scarious tubular acuminate sheaths of which the lowermost is 1.75 cm. long, glabrous below, finely glandular-pubescent above. Raceme loose, exceeding 10 cm. in length (incomplete), 23-flowered or more. Floral bracts lanceolate, acuminate, up to 4.5 mm. long, pubescent on the outer surface. Pedicellate ovary slender, spreading, 6 mm. or less long, glandular-pubescent. Flowers very small for the genus. Sepals sparsely glandular-pubescent near the base on the outer surface. Lateral sepals obliquely ovate, about 3 mm. long, up to 2 mm. wide, obtuse. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate, about 3 mm. long and 1 mm. wide, subacute, concave. Petals adnate to the dorsal sepal, obliquely deltoid-rhombic, obtuse or subacute, almost sessile on the column at the cuneate base, 2.9 mm. long, about 1.6 mm. wide below the middle, 1-nerved with an indistinct branch near the

base, strongly dilated on the outer margin near the base and slightly dilated on the inner margin at the middle, upper margins minutely cellular-ciliolate. Lip adnate to the column near the base of the latter, strongly concave with erect sides, nearly sessile at the solid base, about 2.7 mm. long in natural position, abruptly 3-lobed near the apex; middle lobe small, spatulate-oblong, 1 mm. long, rounded at the apex, concave, upcurved in natural position. Column very short, 2–2.5 mm. long including the terminal erect rostellar horn; clinandrium relatively long; anther oblong-cordate, stipitate.

Ponthieva parviflora is unusual in the genus in being a rather tall species with slender habit and very small flowers. It is somewhat similar to *P. parvula* Schltr., but is vegetatively much larger with dissimilar petals which are narrowed above, and with a more distinctly 3-lobed lip. It differs from *P. Brittonae* Ames in its taller habit, in its much smaller flowers, and in the venation of the petals, and in the dissimilar lip.

A sheet of the same collection bearing three plants (subsequently received from the Field Museum of Natural History) shows the following variations from the type. Plant 20–45 cm. tall. Stem with only three sheaths. Leaves elliptic, about 5–6 cm. long, 2.1 cm. or less broad. Raceme 9–15 cm. long.

YUCATAN: Tuxpeña, Campeche, January 19, 1932. *C. L. Lundell 1213*. (TYPE in Herb. Univ. Mich.).



Ames, Oakes and Schweinfurth, Charles. 1936. "Studies in Ponthieva."
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