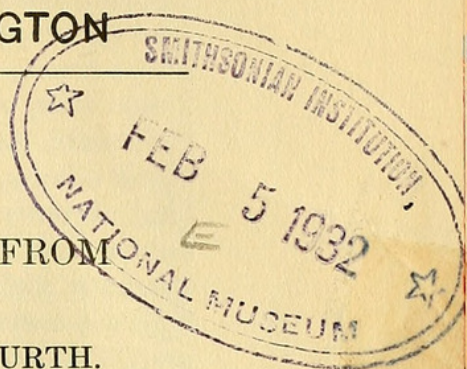


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SPECIES OF PLEUROTHALLIS FROM
MEXICO.

BY OAKES AMES AND CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH.



Among specimens of plants recently collected on Socorro Island off the west coast of Mexico, the following species of *Pleurothallis* appeared and proved to be new. One other orchid was found, namely *Cattleya aurantiaca* (Batem.) P. N. Don, a species now known to be widely distributed in Mexico and Central America, but heretofore unrecorded from Socorro Island.

***Pleurothallis unguicallosa*, A. & S. sp. nov.**

Herba parvula, epiphytica, rhizomate et radicibus densissime intertextis. Rhizoma repens. Caules secundarii graciles, monophylli. Folium lanceolato-ellipticum, in siccitate coriaceum. Racemi quam folium multo breviores, laxe pauciflori. Sepala lateralia in laminam ovatam acriter bidentatam connata. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-oblanceolatum, mucronatum, concavum. Petala minuta, oblanceolato-lineararia, abrupte acuta. Labellum unguiculatum, hastato-oblongum, ungui calloso; lamina supra dense papillosa. Columna arcuata, superne utrinque triangulari-alata.

Plant small, forming dense mats on tree-trunks. Rhizome creeping, slender, branching, concealed by scarios evanescent sheaths, closely jointed and marked by dark rings. Roots very numerous, fibrous, flexuous, filiform, glabrous. Stems slender, subapproximate, up to 4.9 cm. long, spreading, 1-jointed near the base, enveloped to above the middle by 2 tubular scarios sheaths of which the upper one is much the longer. Leaf apical, solitary, elliptic to lanceolate-elliptic, about 4-5.5 cm. long and 8-12 mm. wide, minutely bilobed and apiculate at the apex, cuneate at the sessile base, coriaceous, mid-nerve more or less sulcate above and conspicuously carinate beneath, apparently fleshy in the living plant. Racemes axillary, much shorter than the leaf, 1-4 to a stem, up to 4-flowered, subtended by a small scarios conduplicate broadly lanceolate spathe. Floral bracts minute, infundibuliform, scarios, acute. Flowers small, apparently dark-colored. Sepals rather fleshy in texture. Lateral sepals obliquely lanceo-

late, connate into an ovate lamina which is sharply bidentate at the apex; lamina about 5 mm. long and 5 mm. wide below the middle, saccate at base, 6-nerved, sharply bicarinate on the outer surface with the keels prolonged into a mucro. Dorsal sepal oblong-ob lanceolate, 5.2-5.5 mm. long, about 2 mm. wide, concave, 3-nerved, unicarinate on the outer surface, similarly mucronate, basal margins somewhat connate with the lateral sepals. Petals minute, obliquely oblanceolate-linear, membranaceous, about 3 mm. long, abruptly acute, upper margins irregular, 1-nerved. Labellum much shorter than the sepals, recurved, simple, clawed, 3.2 mm. long; claw subquadrate, slightly angled on each side near the base, adorned near its apex with a transverse fleshy callus which is elevated-quadrate at its base and gradually tapers into the lower part of the lamina; lamina about 2.4 mm. long, in natural position abruptly dilated into auricles at base, gradually constricted in the middle with upcurved sides, and slightly dilated in front; when expanded the lamina is oblong-quadrate or oblong-lanceolate, indistinctly bicarinate near the center, acute at the rounded apex, anterior margins denticulate, upper surface studded with approximate papillae. Column arcuate, shorter than the petals, winged with the wing triangular-dilated at the summit on each side, extended into a stout subequally long foot. Anther galeate; pollinia 2, complanate-pyriform.

The description was made from a tangled mass of dried plants, in which the flowers appeared to be either immature or far advanced. The name is in allusion to the prominent callus at the apex of the claw.

Pleurothallis unguicallosa has its nearest ally in *P. Wilsoni* Lindl., a species which occurs in Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Porto Rico and Guadeloupe. The West Indian species, however, is a smaller one throughout, with 1-flowered peduncles and dissimilar petals and lip.

MEXICO, Socorro Island (Revillagigedo Islands), *Herbert L. Mason* 1628, May 5, 1925. Epiphytic on tree-trunks on east slope of island. The leaves are said to be green above and purple beneath. Type in the Herbarium of the California Academy of Sciences. Duplicate type in the Herbarium of Oakes Ames No. 36528.



Ames, Oakes and Schweinfurth, C. 1930. "A new species of *Pleurothallis* from Mexico." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 43, 195–196.

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