

**Pleurothallis alpina** Ames sp. nov. Caules secundarii caespitiosi, triangulares, longitudinaliter sulcati, erecti, basi vaginis brunneis chartaceis vestiti, monophylli. Folium valde coriaceum, elliptico-lanceolatum, apice bidenticulatum apiculo interjecto. Flores mediocres, in axilla folii congesti. Pedunculi tri- vel quadriflori, e bractea spathacea orientes. Bracteae flores subtendentes infundibuliformes. Sepala lateralia demum libera, valde coriacea, margine minute glandulosa, oblongo-lanceolata, acuta, extus per medium carinata, carina minute scabridula, trinervia. Sepalum dorsale oblongum, supra medium usque ad apicem angustatum, incrassato-carnosum, extus per medium carinatum. Petala membranacea, oblonga, apice angustata, in acumen brevem producta, margine supra medium sparse et irregulariter denticulata, trinervia, sepalis multo breviora.

Labellum carnosum, spathulatum, obtusum, margine supra medium inaequaliter dentatum, infra medium labelli utrinque unidentatum vel unilobulatum; lobulis triangularibus, acutis, erectis, porrectis, apice lobulorum medium labelli excedentibus. Discus glaber, supra medium utrinque breviter bicarinatus, trinervius. Columna carnea, apice paucidenticulata.

Secondary stems 4–20 cm. long, with elongated brownish sheaths at the base; triangular with a groove between each angle, monophyllous, somewhat dilated above. Leaf 8–10 cm. long, 1.5–2 cm. wide, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, very coriaceous, bidenticulate at the tip with a short apicule between the teeth, narrowed below and passing imperceptibly into the dilated summit of the secondary stem. Peduncles congested in the axil of the leaf, clothed with several infundibuliform bracts, with the 4-flowered raceme about 1 cm. long, stout, sheathed at base by an ample spathaceous bract. Pedicel with the ovary 2.5–3 mm. long, stout, subtended by infundibuliform bracts. Lateral sepals at first coherent nearly to the tip, becoming free to the base, 6 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, oblong-lanceolate, acute, very fleshy, traversed longitudinally — along the middle of the outer surface — by a minutely scabridulous keel, margin obscurely glandulose. Dorsal sepal 6.5 mm. long, 2.5 mm. wide, oblong, subacute, very fleshy, minutely glandulose on the margin and outer surface, carinate. Petals 3 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, oblong, terminating in a slender acumen, 3-nerved, the margin of the upper half minutely and irregularly denticulate. Labellum very fleshy, 4 mm. long, 1.5 mm. wide above the middle, spatulate, with a triangular acute lobe on each side 1.5 mm. above the base, margin of the upper half conspicuously dentate, the lower teeth larger than the upper ones and curved sharply forward; lobules 1 mm. long. Disc smooth, 3-nerved, with a short keel on each lateral nerve near the middle. Column 4 mm. long, produced into an abbreviated foot at base, apex minutely and unequally denticulate or tridentate.

This species is very closely allied to *Pleurothallis sicaria* Lindl., a native of Trinidad. At first glance I mistook the

Panama plant for that species. In proposing *P. alpina* I do so with the realization that it differs from *P. sicaria* in minor details only, and may prove to be nothing more than a geographical variety. The labellum is obtuse, not acute as in *P. sicaria*, with the upper two-thirds spatulate rather than lanceolate. Lindley referred material from widely separated localities to *P. sicaria*, including *P. tripteris* Reichb. f. — a native of Venezuela — and on the same sheet with what I take to be the type of his species he mounted specimens of *P. pantasmi* Reichb. f. which had been obtained by Oersted in Nicaragua. His analytical drawings are from the Loddiges specimen originally sent from Trinidad. [Fig. 3.]

PANAMA, Province of Chiriqui, "Caramillia," C. W. Powell 282, collected in 1923. Grows in sunny locations; found on decayed tree trunks. Flowers in March. Sepals and petals olive-green on outer side, striped with dark purple-brown on the inner side. Lip purple. The stems are triangular with a groove between each angle. 4500 feet altitude. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 25025.)

