

**Pleurothallis bothros** Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Puntarenas: epiphytic in pasture along the road to the TV tower on Monteverde, alt. 1750 m, 20 Mar. 1995, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Atwood & W. Rhodehamel 17436 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 12.

Inter species sectionis *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae* planta mediocris grandisve caespitosa, foliis ovatis acutis cordatis horizontalibus, spatha magna suberecta, flore parvo, sepalis carnis subcarinatis, sepalo dorsali elliptico obtuso trinervo, synsepalo ovato concavo, petalis oblongis acutis integris, labello oblongo-ovato obtuso crassissimo cum cavitatem centrale distinguitur.

**Plant** medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 5–20 cm long, with a tubular sheath on the lower third and 2 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** horizontal, thickly coriaceous, ovate to oblong-ovate, acute, 5–9 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, the base sessile, deeply cordate. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive or a few simultaneous, single flowers, subtended by a broad, suberect spathe 1–2 cm long; peduncles 1–2 mm long, concealed within the sheath; floral bracts tubular, 7 mm long; pedicels 5 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; **sepals** white to pale green or pale yellow, fleshy, subcarinate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal elliptical-ovate, obtuse, 5.5–6.5 mm long, 2.5–3.3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovoid, concave, obtuse, minutely bifid synsepal, 5–5.5 mm long, 3.5–5.5 mm wide expanded, 6-veined; **petals** colored as the sepals, thick, oblong, acute, entire, 3.5–4 mm long, 0.9–1.25 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** light yellow to light green, thick, oblong-ovate, obtuse, 3–3.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, slightly dilated at the base, the disc with a large cavity (a modified glenion) above the base, shallowly concave on the end, hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the foot thick, obsolescent, with the anther, rostellum and stigma apical.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek *bothros*, “a pit, or cavity,” referring to the deeply depressed glenion.

Superficially, this species is similar to many others of section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*, but it is distinguished by the thickly coriaceous, horizontal, cordate leaves and a broad, suberect spathe from which one or a several fleshy, pale colored flowers emerge. The sepals and petals are

entire and obtuse. The glenion of the lip is developed into a deep, central cavity.

Although apparently not uncommon in the mountains of northern Costa Rica, this species had escaped recognition because of the similarity of the habit to many others in the section.

**PARATYPES:** COSTA RICA. Puntarenas, Monteverde Reserve, alt. 1500 m, 3 Feb. 1992, S. Ingram & K. Farrell 1252 (MO, SEL). Alajuela: Monteverde Reserve, Peñas Blancas, alt. 750 m, 17 Mar. 1989, J. T. Atwood 89–87 (SEL). Guanacaste: Rincón de La Vieja, Volcán Santa María, alt. 900–1200 m, 27 Jan. 1983, G. Davidse *et al.* 23420 (MO).