*Pleurothallis austinrumleyi K.*W. Holcomb, sp. *nov.*

Plant 8.5 cm tall, epiphytic, caespitose, roots very slender.

Ramicauls up to 8.5 cm long, very slender, erect to suberect, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf 5.25 cm long, 2.7 cm wide, dark green, coriaceous, cordate, acute, the base cuneate, sessile.

Inflorescence a single, successive, resupinate flower, 10 mm long, borne from a reclining spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf.

Labellum (Lip) 4.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, dark orange, verrucose, convex, elliptical obtuse, with a well-developed glenion at the base, a longitudinal channel that extends from the base to just above the middle, connected to the column foot by a hinge, with a crusulum (little leg) at the apex that renders the hinge non-functional.

Dorsal Sepal 5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined, orange, membranous, glabrous, ovate, concave, acute.

Synsepal 5 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, orange, membranous, glabrous, oblong-ovate, concave, acute.

Petals 5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined, orange, descending, rounded at the apex.

Column 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, bilobed, the anther and transverse stigma apical.

Eponomy: Named in honor of Austin Rumley of Atlanta, Georgia, a dear friend of the author.

COLOMBIA: Without collection data. *K.W. Holcomb 18317 (Holotype: GEO).*

Pleurothallis austinrumleyi is a tiny, brightly colored species that falls within the very cluttered *P. bivalvis* (Linden 1846) complex which, unfortunately, contains several distinct species. Of the species within the *P. bivalvis* complex, it is most similar to the Panamanian species, *P. antonensis* (Williams 1942). However, it is easily distinguished by its extremely long petals as well as its long, convex lip that is almost as long as the synsepal.

The convex lip of *P. austinrumleyi*, like many other species in the *P. bivalvis* complex, has a raised bump on the underside of the lip at the apex that is typically referred to as a callus. However, a callus, by definition, is a mass of cells that forms over a wounded or cut plant. This structure is formed by the margins of the lip which have folded underneath forming a "leg" that renders the hinge at the base of the lip non-functional. The term "*crusulum*" which means "little leg" in Latin is proposed to refer to this structure.

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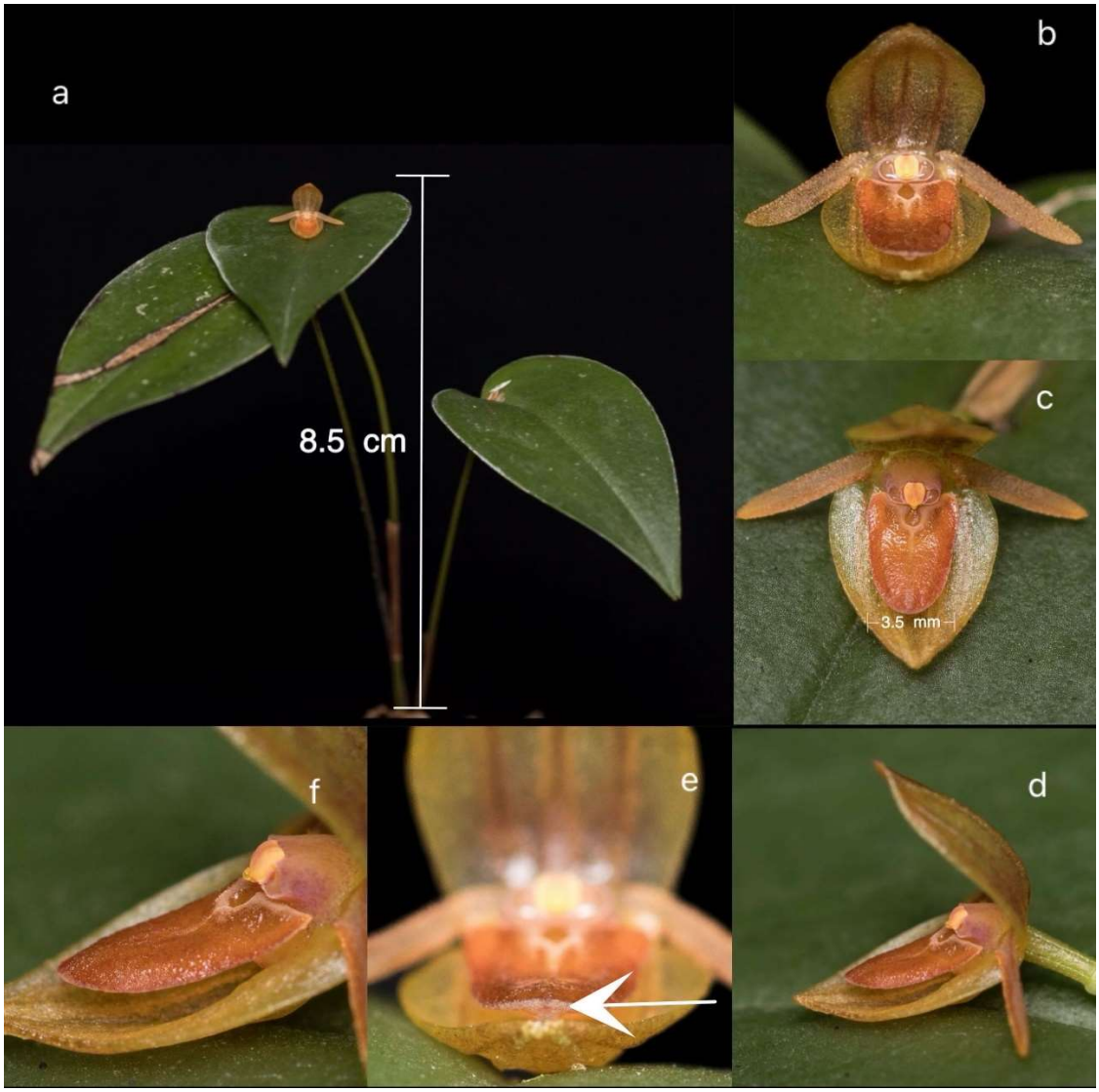

Pleurothallis austinrumleyi
a. habit b. flower c. lip d. flower profile e. crusulum f. lip profile

AMES 2701
Courtesy: Missouri Botanical Garden

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