

Pleurothallis lamia Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec grandis *P. sicariae* Lindl. affinitatibusque similis sed statura majore, lobis lateralibus labelli erectis subacutis, lobo antico integro et disco cum callis hippocrepiformibus differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems erect to suberect, unifoliate, sharply triquetrous, carinate dorsally, 10-45 cm long, 8-18 mm wide at the junction with the leaf, with 2-3 close, basal sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 8-16 cm long, 2-5 cm wide, the apex acute, tridenticulate, the base obliquely decurrent on the stem for 0.5-2.5 cm, the basal margins of the leaf continuous with the wings of the secondary stem. Inflorescence racemose, 1-3 few-flowered (4-6 flowers) racemes ca. 2.5 cm long including the peduncle, from a spathe ca. 1 cm long at the apex of the secondary stem above the base of the leaf; floral bract brown, tubular, 5 mm long; pedicel green, 3 mm long; ovary pubescent, 2 mm long; sepals fleshy, striped and marked with purple, pubescent externally, lightly verrucose within, the dorsal sepal obovate, obtuse, 8.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into a transversely ovate synsepal 5 mm long, 6 mm wide, the apex broadly obtuse to rounded, the sides revolute, the base concave and connate to the dorsal sepal for 1 mm; petals orange, edged in purple, ovate, indistinctly 3-lobed, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, narrowed above the middle with obscure lateral lobes below the middle, the margins coarsely erose; lip dark yellow, marked with purple-brown, thick, elliptical, 3-lobed, 3 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex rounded, entire, the lateral lobes above the base, small, erect, irregular, subacute, the truncate base minutely bi-auriculate, the disc with a thick pair of curved, obliquely "U-shaped," irregularly margined calli near the middle; column dark yellow, 3.5 mm long, toothed at the apex, with a thick foot equally long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *lamia*, "a fabled monster, or bugbear," in allusion to the appearance of the flowers.

TYPE: ECUADOR: AZUAY: epiphytic in old trees near Lago Zorrocucho, 20 km west of Cuenca, alt. 3000 m, 18 July 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & G. Luer 1744 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This large species is related to *P. sicaria*, but differs in the large size as well as the possession of a pair of horseshoe-shaped calli on the lip.