



**PLEUROTHALLIS MELANOGLLOSSA** Luer & R. Escobar

18. **PLEUROTHALLIS MELANOGLOSSA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. sicariae* Lindl. affinis, sed floribus carnosis, petalis cum callo supra medium et labello obovato crassissimo verruculoso distinguitur.

**TYPE:** Colombia: Dept. of Risaralda: epiphytic in forest remnant east of Santa Rosa de Cabal, alt. 2800 m, 12 May 1993, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Escobar 16795 (Holotype: MO).

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Del griego *melanoglossa*, "una lengua negra", en alusión al labello.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek *melanoglossa*, "a black tongue," referring to the labellum.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, broadly expanded above, sharply winged, 5-6.5 cm long, with a 2-3 tubular sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 4-6 cm long, 2 cm wide, with the margins of the sessile base continuous with the wings of the ramicaul. **Inflorescence** a simultaneously few-flowered raceme, ca. 1 cm long including the peduncle, subtended by a spathe ca. 3 mm long from the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts infundibular, 2 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long with the swollen ovary ca. 8 mm long; **sepals** green with 3 purple veins within, rigid, fleshy, microscopically pubescent, the dorsal sepal elliptical-obovate, obtuse, pubescent within above the middle, 8.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a rigidly ovoid, concave synsepal, 7 mm long, 5 mm wide unexpanded, with the apex broadly retuse, shortly and abruptly bi-apiculate; **petals** purple, obovate, subacute, minutely denticulate above the middle, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined, with the vein thickened into a broad callus above the middle; **lip** purple-black, thick, obovoid-trilobed, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 1 mm thick, the apex broadly rounded, the lateral lobes below the middle, erect, uncinatate, the disc coarsely verrucose above the middle, the base truncate, minutely bilobulate, delicately hinged on the end to the column-

foot; **column** stout, semiterete, 2 mm long, minutely denticulate at the apex, the foot stout, 1.5 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

Sóamente un ejemplar de esta especie, en anticipada ántesis fue descubierto. A pesar de que los hinchados ovarios eran casi tan grandes como la flor misma, las partes florales no parecen haber sido alteradas por una ántesis temprana. Vegetativamente se parece a *P. sicaria*, aunque la única planta que se conoce es probablemente un representante pequeño de la especie. Los sépalos son rígidamente carnosos y microscópicamente pubescentes externamente. Los pétalos son obovados y finamente denticulados, con la vena central marcadamente engrosada arriba de la mitad. El negro labelo es grueso y obovado, toscamente verrucoso arriba de la mitad, con lóbulos laterales erectos, uncinados, abajo de la mitad.

Only one specimen of this species in advanced anthesis was discovered. Although the swollen ovaries are nearly as large as the flower itself, the floral parts do not seem to have been altered significantly from early anthesis. Vegetatively the species is similar to *P. sicaria*, although the only plant known is probably a small representative of the species. The sepals are rigidly fleshy and microscopically pubescent externally. The petals are obovate and minutely denticulate with the midvein markedly thickened above the middle. The black lip is thick and obovate, coarsely verrucose above the middle, with erect, uncinuate lateral lobes below the middle.