



***Alaticaulia amsleri*** Luer & Jenny, *sp. nov.*  
ECUADOR. Without collection data, flowered  
in an orchid collection in Sirmach, Switzerland,  
2 June 2010, *R. Amsler s.n.* (Holotype: MO), C.  
Luer illustr. 21624. Fig. 8.

*Inter species Alaticauliae sect. Polyanthae, pedunculo tereti successive bifloro, sepalis petalisque illis A. bicoloris* (Poepp. & Endl.) Luer *similis, sed labello obovato integro disco bicarinato differt.*

*Plant* medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots stout. *Ramicauls* stout, erect, 3–5 cm long, enclosed by a loose, tubular sheath and another 1–2 sheaths at the base. *Leaf* erect, coriaceous, elliptical, long-petiolate, 10–14 cm long including the petiole ca. 5 cm long, the blade elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 2 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. *Inflorescence* a successively 2-flowered raceme, borne by an erect, slender, terete peduncle to 8 cm long, with a sheath above the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts 10–11 mm long; pedicels 12–13 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; *sepals* glabrous, the dorsal sepal yellow, obovate, acute, 20 mm long excluding the tail, 10 mm wide, contracted into an erect, slender, yellow tail 15 mm long, connate to the lateral sepals for 10 mm to form a cylindrical tube, the lateral sepals dark red-brown, paler centrally, oblong, connate 15 mm into an oblong, bifid synsepal, 32 mm long including the tails, the apices acute, contracted into slender, yellow tails 12 mm long, the blades 15 mm wide; *petals* white, cartilaginous, oblong, obtuse, obscurely apiculate, the labellar margin with a longitudinal callus from an obtuse angle near the base to near the apex, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined; *lip* purple, obovate with the rounded apex microscopically erose, 7 mm long, 3.3 mm wide, the disc with a small pair of thin, oblique lamellae at the middle, extending forward as low calli along with a few incomplete calli at the

apex, the base retuse, thickened beneath, hinged to the column-foot; *column* stout, cylindrical, 5 mm long, the foot 3 mm long with an incurved extension, the anther and stigma ventral.

**Etymology:** Named for Roland Amsler of Sirmach, Switzerland, gardener of an orchid collection.

This species was cultivated in a private orchid collection, without collection data other than “Ecuador,” in Sirmach, Switzerland, and was submitted for identification by Dr. Rudolf Jenny of Bern. Among the numerous species of *Alaticaulia*, this species with a terete peduncle falls into section *Polyanthae* with only 16 known species. The yellow and red-brown sepaline tube with slender yellow tails is superficially similar to some of the variations seen in *Alaticaulia bicolor* (Poepp. & Endl.) Luer. The petals are similar, but the obovate, entire lip is devoid of the marginal plication so typical of the genus. Instead, a pair of small, oblique lamellae rises in the center of the lip, with a few low, irregular calli at the tip.