

Pleurothallis schizopogon Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva repens ascendens, caulibus secundariis brevibus unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis anguste obovatis, pedunculo filiformi, racemo paucifloro quam foliis longiore, floribus successivis pallidis interdum rubro suffusis vittatisve, sepalo dorsali ovato caudato, synsepalo dense villosa bifurcato apicibus acuminatis, petalis angustissimis, labello 3-lobato lobis lateralibus rotundatis erectis lobo antico muricato late ovato truncato infra apicem lamellato.

Plant small, epiphytic, repent, ascending, the rhizome 5-20 mm long between secondary stems, rooting at nodes. Secondary stems unifoliate, slender, 10-12 mm long, mostly concealed by 1-2 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, 3.5-6.5 cm long, 9-13 mm wide, the obtuse to rounded apex tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate into an indistinct, channeled petiole. Inflorescence a loose, successively few (3-4)-flowered raceme 5-8 cm long including the peduncle, the peduncle filiform, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 3-6 mm long; ovary 2-3 mm long, densely spiculate; sepals yellow to white, or translucent, striped and suffused with red, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, tricarinate, 23-26 mm long, 7 mm wide, the apex long-acuminate, the lateral sepals connate 9-10 mm into an ovate, bifid synsepal covered by long to short trichomes internally, bicarinate externally, with the sides revolute, 24-27 mm long, 6 mm wide spread, the apices narrowly acuminate; petals widely spread, very narrowly ovate, 21 mm long, 2 mm wide, the margins microscopically irregular, the apex gradually acuminate into a slender tail; lip yellow to red, subquadrate-3-lobed to cordate, 3 mm long, 3 mm wide unspread, deflexed basally and flanked by a pair of erect, rounded lateral lobes, the apical lobe broadly ovate, shortly muriculate, the apex more or less truncate with a keel projecting beneath; column 3 mm long, the stigma transverse, the foot short.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *schizo-* ($\sigma\chi\iota\zeta\omega$ -), "cleft," and *pogon* ($\pi\omega\gamma\omega\nu$), "beard," in allusion to the appearance of the hairy, bifid synsepal.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest near the pass north of Loja, alt. ca. 3000 m, 12 Feb. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & M. Portilla 2561 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: Loja: same area, C. Luer, J. Luer & M. Portilla 2562, flowers white, (SEL): Azuay: Near km 75 south of Cuenca, alt. 2800 m, 20 May 1958, C. H. Dodson 256 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

The fragile, translucent flowers are sometimes delicately veined in red with hairs of the same color covering the combined lateral sepals. Photographs of this species from the province of Zamora-Chinchipec have been seen.