

Pleurothallis tomentosa Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *tomentosus*, "covered by short, rigid hairs," in reference to the sepals.

Species haec *Pleurothallis aspasicenso* Rchb.f. affinis, sed habitu et flore minoribus, sepalis anthracinis extus dense tomentosus intus glabris, petalis et labello glabris distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, presumably epiphytic, base of ramicaul incomplete; roots unknown. Ramicaul stout, erect, portion present 8.5 cm long, enclosed by 3 loose, partially fragmenting, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute, 8.5 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, cuneate below into the conduplicate, sessile base. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of single, successive flowers, in the sulcus at the base of the leaf; peduncles 3-5 mm long, enclosed by a spathe 14 mm long; floral bracts pubescent, 7 mm long; pedicels shortly pubescent, 4 mm long; ovary shortly pubescent, 1.5 mm long, 1-2 mm wide; **sepals** purple-black, fleshy, densely short-pubescent externally, smooth to faintly subverrucose within, the dorsal sepal elliptical-linear, obtuse, 11.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, obtuse, shortly bifid, concave synsepal, 11 mm long, 5 mm wide, each half 3-veined; **petals** deep purple, fleshy toward the apex, glabrous, elliptical-obovate, obtuse, 4.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple-black, oblong-trilobed, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apical lobe rounded, smooth, the lateral lobes erect near the middle, narrowly uncinata, antrorse, the disc with an erect, longitudinal, narrow, channeled callus from the base to the apical third, and with a pair of thick calli on the middle third, the base subtruncate, with minute lobules at the angles, hinged on the end; **column** semiterete, 3.5 mm long, the foot 1.5 mm long, the anther ciliate on the upper margin.

COSTA RICA: Without locality, ca. 1867, *A.R. Endres 630* (Holotype: W), C. Luer illustr. 18849.

This species is known only from a single Costa Rican collection by Endres in the nineteenth century. To my knowledge it has not been collected subsequently. It is one of the few species that might be extinct. It is related to sympatric *P. aspasicensis*, *P. sempergemmata* Luer and *P. uncinata* Fawc., but it is distinguished from them by the smaller habit and smaller, purple-black flowers. The sepals are densely short-echinate externally and smooth or faintly subverrucose within. The lateral lobes of the lip are small, uncinata, and near the middle. The callus is longitudinal with a narrow channel from the base to the apical third, and the larger callus on either side on the middle third are smooth.