

***Pleurothallis muricaudata* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta perparva caespitosa, racemo flexuoso successivifloro foliis spathulatis duplolongiore, floribus rubrobrunneis pusillis pubescentibus, sepalis acutis lateralibus in laminam bifidam connatis, petalis longicaudatis caudis longipubescentibus, labello subpandurato obtuso ciliato basi bilobulato disco fisso supra basim callo bifurcato.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots comparatively stout, flexuous. Secondary stems unifoliate, 3-5 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, ribbed, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, spathulate, long-petiolate, marginate, 10-20 mm long including the 3-8 mm long petiole, 5-7 mm wide, the rounded apex notched and apiculate, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a fractiflex raceme of successive, small, red-brown flowers, borne by a capillary peduncle up to 5 cm long including the rachis, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 1-1.5 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; sepals red-brown, white toward the base, shortly pubescent and ciliate, the dorsal sepal oblong, acute, 3.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the laterals connate to near the apices into an ovate, bifid lamina, 3.75 mm long, 2.25 mm wide; petals red-brown with white margins, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, the proximal blade oblong, 1.5 mm long, contracted into a filiform, long-pubescent, purple tail 1.5 mm long; lip red-purple, white toward the base, oblong to subpandurate, 1.75 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, the margins ciliate, the apex obtuse with revolute margins, the truncate base bilobulate, delicately hinged between, the disc with an erect, bifurcated callus at the base, the calli continuing forward as carinae on either side of a central cleft; column white, semiterete, 1.5 mm long, longitudinally winged, the apex denticulate.

Etymology: From the Latin *mus*, *muris*, "mouse," and *caudata*, "tailed," in allusion to the slender, hairy tails of the petals.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest above Chiriboga, alt. 2000 m, 7 March 1982, A. Hirtz & A. Leon s.n. (HOLOTYPE: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 7225.

Distribution: Western Ecuador.

This species is apparently most closely allied to the Central American *P. fractiflexa* Ames & Schweinf., but *P. muricaudata* may be distinguished by the much smaller flowers and by the slender caudae of the petals that are not clavate thickened.