

**Pleurothallis eumeces** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis teretibus gracilibus longis vaginis tubulosis scabrosis instructis, foliis erectis ellipticis, floribus fasciculatis successivis brevipedunculatis, sepalis anguste ovatis, petalis basin versus ovatis apice teretibus longissimis quam sepalis longioribus, labello trilobato, lobo antico rotundato dentato, lobis lateralibus uncinatis, base bilobulato disco bicarinato.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems erect to ascending, slender, terete, unifoliolate, 10-25 cm long, provided with a series of 6-7 close, tubular sheaths, the lower ones scabrous, soon fragmenting. Leaf erect, coriaceous, shortly petiolate, elliptical, 9-11 cm long including the 5-8 mm long petiole, 1.5-1.9 cm wide, the sides revolute, the apex acute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a fascicle of single, successive flowers from the apex of the secondary stem, the spathe ca. 5 mm long, deciduous; peduncle ca. 4 mm long; floral bract 4-5 mm long, echinate; pedicel 4-5 mm long, with a short filament; ovary 2.5 mm long, glandular-cellular; sepals translucent tan suffused with red, lightly pubescent externally, connate basally ca. 1 mm, the dorsal sepal ovate, 12 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the margins revolute above the middle, the apex narrowly obtuse, the lateral sepals similar to the dorsal sepal, each 10.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, lightly pubescent within below the middle; petals translucent with 3 red veins, ovate, minutely serrate, 14 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex narrowly long-terete; lip purple, oblong, 3-lobed, 3.25 mm long, 1 mm wide unspread, the lateral lobes erect, introrse, acute, with minutely serrate margins, the anterior lobe rounded, dentate, the disc with a pair of rounded calli above the middle and a pair of closely parallel calli ending at the truncate base, with a minute pair of basal lobules, hinged to the column-foot; column 3 mm long, semiterete, the clinandrium with 2 projecting, subulate processes.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *eumekes* (ευμηκες), "very long," in reference to the extremely long petals.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: epiphytic in cloud forest at the pass between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2700 m, 11 Feb. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & M. Portilla 2530 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: same locality, 28 Sept. 1961, C. H. Dodson & L. B. Thien 754 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This species may be distinguished from its numerous relatives by the extremely long, slender, terete apices of the petals that project well beyond the sepals.