

**Pleurothallis colothrix** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris repens, caulibus secundariis ascendentibus foliis angustissime ovatis subaequilongis vaginis pubescentibus, floribus fasciculatis solitariis brevipedunculatis, sepalis extus ovario bracteisque breviter pubescentibus, sepalis translucidis alboflavescentibus anguste ovatis obtusis, petalis apice attenuatis sepalis subaequilongis, labello subpandurato apice rotundato disco cum callo basali rotundato.

Plant medium-sized, epiphytic, repent, the rhizome stout, 30 or more cm long, 0.5-1 cm between secondary stems, enclosed by densely pubescent sheaths. Secondary stems ascending, slender, unifoliate, 6-11 cm long, concealed by 4-5 close, tubular, imbricating sheaths with transversely arranged, digitated, scaly trichomes. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, 10-13 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, the base cuneate into a short, indistinct, conduplicate petiole. Inflorescence a fascicle of a few, single flowers borne from a congested aggregation of buds near the apex of the secondary stem, covered by 2-3 pubescent bracts 1 mm long; peduncles 2-3 mm long, pubescent; floral bract and pedicel each 2-4 mm long, pubescent; ovary 1.5 mm long, sparsely covered by short, red spicules; sepals translucent yellow-white, sparsely short-pubescent externally, free, the dorsal sepal linear-ovate, obtuse, 10 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the lateral sepals similar to the dorsal sepal, slightly oblique, 9.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide; petals translucent yellow-white, ovate near the base, entire, 9 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex long-attenuate, acute, slightly thickened with revolute margins; lip yellow-white, oblong-subpandurate, 2.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, slightly narrowed above the middle, the apex rounded, recurved, with thin, erect, obtuse, marginal angles below the middle, the disc with a thick, rounded callus from the base to near the middle where the sides of the callus become a small pair of parallel carinae lightly colored with purple, the membranous base hinged to the column-foot; column greenish white, stout, 2 mm long, broadly winged with a pair of short, obtuse, apical teeth, with a concave foot 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *kolos* (κόλος), "shortened," and *-thrix* (-θριξ), "haired," referring to the short pubescence of the sheaths, bracts, ovary and sepals.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MORONA-SANTIAGO: epiphytic in cloud forest east of Paute, alt. 1700 m, 10 July 1977, cultivated at SEL, 77-2694, flowered in cult. 26 March 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer, G. Luer & A. Andreetta 5991 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

This medium-sized relative of *P. affinis* Lindl. is repent, reminiscent of *P. trachychlamys* Schltr., but considerably larger. The flowers are also very similar to those of *P. affinis*, but the lip has a basal callus similar to that of *P. trachychlamys*, but without the lateral lobes.