

Pleurothallis uxoria Luer, sp. nov.

Planta grandis rosularis, caulibus secundariis gracilibus longis ascendentibus vaginis tubulosis scabrosis obtectis unifoliatas, foliis erectis angustissime ovatis marginibus revolutis, inflorescentia fasciculata floribus flavis singularibus successivis, sepalis ellipticis, apicibus petalorum teretibus crassis, labello obovato arcuato apice late rotundato retuso basi angustato concavo bilobulato.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose, rosetted; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, purple where exposed, ascending to suberect, unifoliate, 20-35 cm long, mostly concealed by a series of 6-10 close, tubular sheaths, later shed, the lowermost scabrous. Leaf dark green, suffused with purple, erect, rigidly coriaceous, very narrowly ovate, 15-23 cm long, 1-1.2 cm wide, the apex long-attenuate, tridenticulate, the margins revolute, the base cuneate. Inflorescence a fascicle of successive, single, clear yellow, glabrous flowers from the axil of the leaf; floral bract 4-5 mm long, sparsely pubescent; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary green, glandular-cellular, 3 mm long; dorsal sepal erect, elliptical, subacute, 8.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide; lateral sepals elliptical, deflexed, oblique, obtuse, 6 mm long, 4 mm wide, connate basally for 1 mm; petals spreading, light yellow, ovate, 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, constricted above the middle into a thick, terete, blunt, dark yellow tail 1 mm broad; lip yellow marked with brown, obovate, arcuate, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the broadly rounded apex retuse, the base narrowed, concave, with a minute pair of lateral lobules, the disc with a pair of thick, rounded, parallel calli below the middle; column winged, 3 mm long, with a concave foot about as long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *uxor*, "a wife," in honor of my wife who discovered this species.

TYPE: ECUADOR: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE : epiphytic in cloud forest east of the pass between Loja and Zamora, alt. ca. 2500 m, 11 Feb. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & M. Portilla 2533 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

A single, large, handsome specimen of this species was found growing on a shrub on a steep embankment in cloud forest by Jane Luer. About ten long stems radiated in a circle from the base, and several stems bore a clear yellow flower at the base of the long, pointed, narrow leaves.