

Oreophilus chelosepalus Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

TYPE: Ecuador—Pichincha: “Mindó,” alt. 1500 m, collected and cultivated by Ecua-genera, Gualaceo, flowered in cultivation, 2 Feb. 2002, A. Hirtz 8039 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21292. FIGURE 31.

Inter species generis Oreophili W.E.Higgins & Archila sepalis carinatis ad apicem uncinatis lateralibus reflexis, petalis transverse plicatis, labello ad basim bilobo ad apicem integro distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, repent, branching rhizome ca. 3 mm long between ramicauls; roots slender. Ramicauls suberect, 1 mm long, enclosed by 1–2 thin, long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** prone, coriaceous, circular, 6–7 mm long, 6–7 mm wide, the rounded base abruptly contracted into the ramicaul. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively 2–3 flowered raceme, borne by an erect peduncle 5–6 mm long from the junction of the ramicaul and the rhizome; floral bracts 1–1.5 mm long; pedicels 2–3 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** dark purple, yellow toward the base, carinate, the carinae terminating at the tips with a claw-like apiculum, dorsal sepal broadly ovate, convex, densely pubescent, 3.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 0.5 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals yellow on margins, acutely reflexed, ovate, oblique, 3.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, connate ca. 1 mm, 3-veined; **petals** yellow, glabrous, transversely bilobed, with the upper lobe triangular, acute, 0.75 mm long, folded over the lower lobe, the lower lobe triangular, acuminate, 1 mm long; **lip** yellow, glabrous, bilobed with rounded lobes encircling the column, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded, the apex obtuse, entire, connate to the base of the column; **column** subclavate, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

Etymology. From the Greek *chelosepalon*, “sepals with a claw,” referring to the tips of the sepals.

Comments. With little round, prostrate leaves produced along a creeping rhizome, this little species is similar to other species of the genus *Oreophilus*. Two or three unusual flowers are produced successively by an erect peduncle about as long as the leaf. The dorsal sepal is erect while the laterals are acutely reflexed; all are carinate dorsally with the carinae ending in a little hook. While the dorsal sepal is densely pubescent, the lateral sepals are only cellular. The petals are transversely bilobed with the triangular upper lobe acutely folded over the acuminately triangular lower lobe. The lip is bilobed basally with rounded lobes embracing the column; the apex is obtuse and entire.