

Platystele fimbriata Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *fimbriatus*, "fimbriate," referring to the sepals and petals.

Planta parvula caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa foliis ellipticis petiolatis duplo longiore, sepalis late ovatis obtusis fimbriatis, petalis late ovatis acutis fimbriatis, la-bello crasso carnosio obovoideo obtuso.

Plant minute, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 1-2 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, ribbed, imbricating sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, petiolate, 6-10 mm long including a petiole 2-3 mm long, the blade elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 2.5-3 mm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence an erect to suberect, loose, distichous, subflexuous, successively several-flowered raceme to 7 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 15-17 mm long, from the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, 0.75 mm long; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 0.25 mm long; sepals translucent rose to light brown, glabrous, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, concave, obtuse, the margins long-fimbriate, 2.25 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, subacute, only shortly ciliate on the outer margins, long-fimbriate on the inner margins, 1.75 mm long, 1.15 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 1 mm; petals translucent light rose to light brown, broadly ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 1.5 mm long, 1 mm wide; lip red to red-brown, thick, fleshy, obovoid, with the apex obtuse, slightly recurved, 1.25 mm long, 1 mm wide, 0.75 mm thick, the base truncate with a small glenion, fixed to the column-foot; column shallowly cucullate, 0.5 mm long and broad, the stigma bilobed, the foot rudimentary.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Esmeraldas: epiphytic in wet forest west of Lita, alt. 750 m, 18 Jan. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, C. H. Dodson, D. Benzing & D. Bermudes 12384 (Holotype: MO); same area, C. Luer et al. 12380 (MO).

This species, *P. resimula*, and *P. rhinocera* have very similar, thick, obovoid lips with an incurved apex, but the sepals and petals differ markedly. *Platystele fimbriata* is distinguished by the broadly ovate, obtuse, long-fimbriate dorsal sepal with three incomplete veins; semiconnate, shortly ciliate lateral sepals; and broad, shortly acuminate, long-fimbriate petals.