

**Platystele tobarii** Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 10.

Ety.: Named for Francisco Tobar of Mindo, co-collector of this species.

Species haec *Platystelis rhinocerae* Luer & Hirtz similis, sed floribus majoribus, sepalo dorsali trinervis quam lateralibus majore, sepalis petalisque minutissime ciliatis, et labello ad medium protuberanti differt.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, ribbed sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, petiolate, 15-22 mm long including a petiole 5-6 mm long, the blade broadly elliptical, obtuse, 6-8 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a suberect, loose, distichous, subflexuous, successively few- to several-flowered raceme to 4 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 2-3 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, 1 mm long; pedicels 3-4 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent yellow with rose veins, microscopically ciliate-cellular pubescent, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, subacute, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, free to the base; **petals** yellow, minutely ciliate, narrowly triangular-ovate, oblique, acute, 4 mm long, 0.8 mm wide; **lip** dark rose, thick, fleshy, cellular-glandular, ovoid, round at the apex, 3.2 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, the disc convex with a subpyramidal cone that fills the distal half, concave beneath, the base truncate with an obscure glenion, firmly hinged to the column-foot; **column** shallowly cucullate, 0.5 mm long and broad, the stigma bilobed, the foot rudimentary.

ECUADOR: **Imbabura**: Province of Cotacachi, Junín, alt. 1500-1700 m, 16 Feb. 2004, *F. Tobar & J. Monge 612* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20973.

All known members of the genus *Platystele* Schltr. possess only single-veined sepals, except for this present species with a three-veined dorsal sepal. The peculiar lip of this species is reminiscent to that of *P. fimbriata* Luer & Hirtz, *P. resimula* Luer & Hirtz, and *P. rhinocera* Luer & Hirtz, all known by a prominent convexity of the apex. The convexity of *P. tobarii* is largest near the middle.

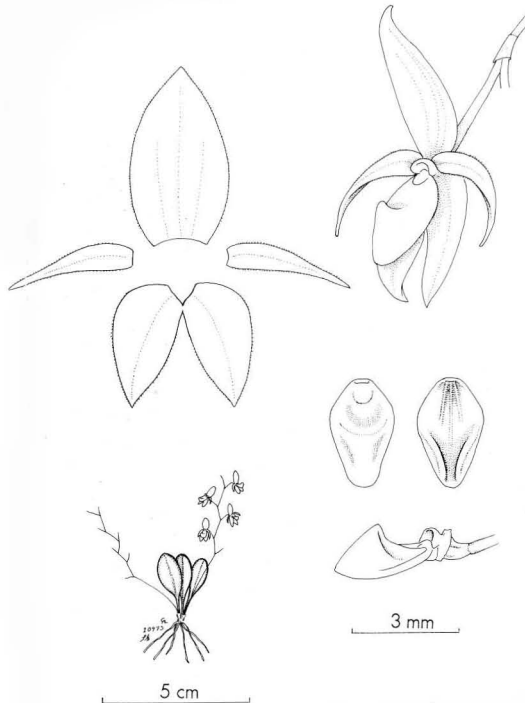


Fig. 10. *Platystele tobarii*