

***Pleurothallis anceps* Luer, sp. nov.**

Herba mediocris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis erectis ancipitiis, folio erecto elliptico acuto rigido carinato marginibus revolutis, flore singulari successivo longipedicellato albobirescenti purpureo-punctato, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque supra basin anguste lineari obtuso, petalis angustissimis semiteretibus serrulatis, labello ovato acuto calloso.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, monophyllous, sharply ancipitous, 6-21 cm long, 4-6 mm wide near the leaf, enclosed below by 2-3 imbricating, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, rigidly coriaceous, elliptical, 7-10.5 cm long, 1.5-2.2 cm wide, the margins revolute, carinate along the midrib, the acute apex tridenticulate, the base rounded with the sides shortly decurrent on the stem. Inflorescence a succession of single flowers borne in a fascicle from a spathe ca. 1 cm long at the base of the leaf; peduncle erect, ca. 8 mm long; floral bract 5-10 mm long; ovary green, subverrucose, 4 mm long; sepals and petals glabrous, greenish white with purple dots; dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, linear above the dilated base, obtuse, carinate, 13 mm long, 3.5 mm wide; lateral sepals connate into a similarly shaped synsepal, concave, bicarinate, 13 mm long, 4 mm wide; petals very narrowly ovate, acuminate, acute, 12 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, semiterete above the middle, the margins minutely serrate; lip white, suffused and dotted with red, ovate, acute, 4.4 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, the truncate base broadly but lightly fixed to the column-foot, the disc with a broad, rounded callus in the center; column pink, semiterete, 1 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *anceps*, "two-headed or two-sided," referring to the sharply ancipitous secondary stems.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: CARCHI: epiphytic in cloud forest near Maldonado, alt. 1500 m, cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 78-942, flowered in cult. 30 Sept. 1978, *M. Madison, L. Besse, H. Kennedy & T. Plowman s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *COLOMBIA*: without locality, cultivated by M. & O. Robeldo, La Ceja, Col., R. Escobar 1416, flowered in cult. 16 Oct. 1977, *C. Luer 2056* (SEL), *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: terrestrial on the road embankment between Nanegalito and Gualea, alt. 1500 m, 9 Aug. 1978, *C. H. Dodson, T. Dodson, A. Embree & R. Perry 6993* (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Northern Ecuador and Colombia.

This species is one of a small group characterized by laterally compressed secondary stems. In this case the stem is markedly flattened in its upper half. The single, whitish flowers with slender floral parts are dotted with purple, and the simple, ovate lip is convex centrally.