

**Pleurothallis apopsis** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta grandis caespitosa, caulibus secundariis teretibus altis prope apicem arcuatis, folio maturo deflexo cordato acuminato, floribus luteis breviter pubescentibus successivis fasciculatis spatha reclinata, sepalo dorsali late elliptico obtuso, synsepalo ovato lateribus revolutis, petalis ellipticis acuminatis erosis, labello crasso triangulari late bicalloso.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, fasciculate, flexuous. Secondary stems unifoliate, erect but arching near the apex, terete, 25-45 cm long, with a long, close, tubular sheath below the middle and another 2 at the base. Mature leaf horizontal to deflexed, coriaceous, ovate, 10-13 cm long, 3-3.5 cm wide, the apex acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base deeply cordate, sessile, the immature leaf erect, narrowly elliptical, petiolate. Inflorescence a succession of solitary, light yellow, shortly pubescent, widely spread flowers borne in a compact fascicle from the base of the leaf, subtended by a reclining spathe ca. 1.5 cm long; peduncles 3 mm long; floral bract thin, 5 mm long; pedicel 5-11 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; dorsal sepal broadly elliptical, obtuse, 13 mm long, 9.5 mm wide, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into an ovate lamina with revolute sides, 14 mm long, 6.5 mm wide; petals elliptical, acute, acuminate, 11 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, shortly pubescent, the margins erose-denticulate; lip thick, glabrous, triangular, 4 mm long, 4 mm wide, the anterior angle rounded, the basal angles subacute, the disc with a pair of low calli above the base and callous plates ending just short of the apex; column stout, 1.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, with a broad, bulbous foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *apopsis* (ἀποψις), "a high place with a commanding view," in allusion to the high, mountainous habitat.

TYPE: ECUADOR: IMBABURA: epiphytic in cold cloud forest between Mariano Acosta and Ibarra, alt. 3400 m, 9 Feb. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & A. Hirtz 3955 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Northern Ecuador.

This species seems most similar to *P. cardiostola* Rchb. f., but *P. apopsis* is notable in the longer stems arching above, and light yellow flowers produced from a reclining spathe. The lip is triangular with smooth, more or less flat callosities.