

**Pleurothallis caniceps** Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. crocodilicepi* Rchb. f. affinis sed habitu minore, foliis ellipticis non-cordatis et labello majore lobis basalibus subacutis erectis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, fasciculate. Secondary stems slender, erect, unifoliate, 2.5-5.5 cm long, narrowly ancipitous above, 2 mm deep, with 2-3 close, tubular sheaths near the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 4-6.5 cm long, 1.3-2 cm wide, the acute apex lightly acuminate, tridenticulate, the base cuneate, sessile. Inflorescence a succession of long-stemmed, suberect, solitary flowers from a 4 mm spathe at the base of the leaf; peduncle filiform, 20-23 mm long; pedicel also 20-23 mm long; floral bract 5-6 mm long; ovary 3 mm long, with 6 low carinae; sepals translucent rosy white with light rose spots, faintly and sparsely verrucose externally above the middle, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acute, 10 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal

sepal, 9.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide expanded; petals white, very narrowly ovate, lightly oblique, acute, thick, cellular-glandular, 8.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide; lip rose, heavily suffused and dotted with red-purple, fleshy, pubescent, ovate, 3-lobed, 2.25 mm long, 1.5 mm wide unexpanded, the apex subacutely rounded, the disc thick, lightly cleft near the middle, the basal lobes triangular, subacute, erect, the truncate base flattened on the end above the membranous attachment to the base of the column; column semititerete, rose, 2 mm long, the anther apical with a protruding rostellum, the base pedestal-like, microscopically pubescent.

**Etymology:** From the Latin *canis*, "dog," and *-ceps*, "headed," in allusion to the appearance of the hairy lip with erect ears.

**TYPE:** COSTA RICA: ALAJUELA: epiphytic in felled trees below the Monteverde Preserve, alt. 1400 m, 24 June 1981, cultivated at SEL, flowered in cult. 28 January 1982, C. Luer & A. Luer 6811 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

**Distribution:** Costa Rica.

Although this small species seems most similar to *P. eumecocaulon* Schltr., with which it is sympatric, it is more closely related to *P. crocodiliceps*. *Pleurothallis caniceps* is easily distinguished by the lip which strongly recalls that of *P. crocodiliceps*. The basal lobes are suberect instead of being slender and falcate. The pyramidal callus near the base of the column, behind which the lip of *P. crocodiliceps* is attached, is absent.