

Pleurothallis giraffa Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus, foliis suberectis vel horizontalibus anguste ovatis breviter cordatis, flore singulari successivo bilabiato, sepali dorsali synsepaloque bruneolo-virescenti ovato subacuto minute ciliato, petalis pupureis linearibus acutis denticulatis, labello atropurpureo rhombico leviter concavo supra medium minute denticulato apice obtuso apiculato, infra medium in basim latam leviter concavam angustato, columna gracili elongata arcuata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine, fasciculate. Secondary stems very slender, terete, erect, unifoliate, 9-19 cm tall, with a close, tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base. Leaf suberect to horizontal, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, 5-9 cm long, 1.5-3.5 cm wide, the apex acute, tridenticulate, the base shallowly cordate, sessile. Inflorescence a single, successive, bilabiate flower produced from a spathe 6-15 mm long, from the base of the leaf; peduncles 4-5 mm long; floral bract 5 mm long; mm long, 3.75 mm wide, shallowly concave, minutely denticulate above the middle, the apex obtuse, apiculate, contracted below the middle into the broad, shallowly concave base, with a narrow glenion above the base; column slender, arcuate, 3 mm long, with a thick foot 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *giraffa*, "a giraffe," in allusion to the long-necked column.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: IMBABURA: epiphytic in cloud forest above Apuela, alt. ca. 2000 m, 8 Feb. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & A. Hirtz 3942 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: COTOPAXI: epiphytic in cloud forest near El Corazon, alt. 1200 m, 18 Feb. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4007 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Western Ecuador.

This is the only species of the "cordate-leaved" group that I have seen with an elongated, arcuate column.