

Pleurothallis imitor Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Puntarenas, east of Santa Elena de Monteverde on the continental divide, alt. 1500 m, 6 Aug. 1988, *J. T. Atwood & W. Haber 88-60* (Holotype: SEL). Fig. 17.

Species haec *P. rowleei* Ames affinis, sed inflorescentia abbreviata pauciflora folio ovato acuminato multibreviore, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque ovatis acutis, petalis oblongis acutis et labello triangulari acuto basi reflexo differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 12–18 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath below the middle. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, acuminate, 7–11.5 cm long, 2.5 cm wide, the base cordate, sessile. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of 1- to 2-flowered peduncles, subtended by a spathe 15–18 mm long, at the base of the leaf; peduncles 8–12 mm long; floral bracts 5 mm long; pedicels 8 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; **sepals** yellow, membranous, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 12 mm long, 6 mm wide, 5-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate synsepal, 11 mm long, 6.5 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** entire, oblong-subfalcate, acute, 9 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, entire, triangular-sagittate, acute, 4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the basal angles acute, erect, the disc smooth with a distinct glenion at the base, the base reflexed into a claw, hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, terete, 2 mm long, the anther and stigma apical, the foot thick, abbreviated.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *imitor*, “an imitator,” referring to the similarity of the species to a species of section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*.

This species is known from a single collection near the Monteverde Reserve. With the cordate leaf and a basal, abbreviated inflorescence it appears to be member of section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*, but the flowers are produced either singly, or successively in a two-flowered raceme, placing it in section *Pleurothallis*. The ovate, acute dorsal sepal and the synsepal are similar. The petals are falcate-oblong, acute and three-veined. The lip is sagittate and acute with a reflexed basal claw between erect, acute, basal angles, placing it in subsection *Acroniae*.