

***Pleurothallis litotes* Luer, sp. nov.**

Species haec *Pleurothallidis xanthochlorae* Rchb. f. et *P. cymbisepalae* Schltr. affinis sed labello laevi profunde cordato et profunde concavo obtuse apiculato differt.

Plant medium to large, epiphytic to terrestrial, shortly repent, the rhizome 0.5-2 cm between secondary stems, roots slender, fasciculate. Secondary stems slender, terete, unifoliate, 7-37 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath near or a little above the middle, another below the middle or above the base plus another at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, 7-17 cm long, 1.5-6.5 cm wide, the apex acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate to rounded, sessile. Inflorescence racemose, 1-6 slender, densely many-flowered racemes 8-17 cm long, flowering nearly from the base, from a fugacious spathe 1.5-2.2 cm long at the base of the leaf; floral bract thin, 2.5-4 mm long, pedicel 3-6 mm long, subappressed to the rachis, ovary 1.5-2.5 mm long, sepals and petals glabrous, dark red to rose or white, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acuminate, acute, 3-4 mm long, 1.75-2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, concave, subacute synsepal, 3-3.5 mm long, 2.5-3.25 mm wide, the petals narrowly oblong-elliptical, acute, 2-4 mm long, 0.5-1 mm wide, 1-veined; lip green, ovate-cordate, concave, 1.5-2.5 mm long, 1.25-2 mm wide, the subacute apex apiculate, the base with a transverse thickening, broadly fixed to the column-foot; column stout, 1-1.5 mm long, the foot obsolescent.

ETYMOLOGY. From the Greek *litotes* (λιτοτες), "simplicity," in allusion to the simple flower parts and habit.

TYPE: ECUADOR: CARCHI: epiphytic in cloud forest above Maldonado, alt. ca. 2000 m, 21 Feb. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 2700 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: ECUADOR: CARCHI: epiphytic in cloud forest above El Carmelo, alt. ca. 3000 m, 23 Feb. 1978, C. Luer J. Luer & A. Hirtz 2747 (SEL); AZUAY: epiphytic and terrestrial in and around low shrubs near km 80 south of Cuenca, alt. ca. 3000 m, 17 July 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & G. Luer 1821 (SEL); MORONA-SANTIAGO: terrestrial on the road embankment east of Paute toward the dam site, alt. ca. 2000 m, 10 July 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Andretta & G. Luer 1761 (SEL); COLOMBIA: CAUCA: cloud forest above Monchique, alt. 2750 m, 26 July 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer, J. Kuhn & R. Escobar 2997 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador and Colombia.

Probably previously identified as *Pleurothallis xanthochlora* or *P. cymbisepala*, *P. litotes* differs from them in the rose to white flowers, but always, to my knowledge, with a bright green lip. The cordate lip is deeply concave and smooth with the apex apiculate. This species is variable in size of habit and flowers in its range from southern Colombia to southern Ecuador.