

**Pleurothallis pelex** Luer, sp. nov.

*Pleurothallidis archidonae* Lindl. similis sed foliis angustioribus base rotundatis, floribus flavis solitariis successivis longipedicellatis et callis loborum basaliu[m] labelli brevioribus differt.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose, roots fine, densely fasciculate. Secondary stems erect, slender, unifoliolate, 13-25 cm long, with a close, thin, tubular sheath on the lower third and another at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, very narrowly ovate, 10-17 cm long, 12-18 mm wide, the acute apex tridenticulate, the base rounded to subcordate, sessile. Inflorescence a crowded fascicle of long-pedicellate, solitary, successive flowers, from the base of the leaf, the spathe narrow, 1.5-2.5 cm long, fugacious; peduncles ca. 1 cm long, floral bracts loose, 10-15 mm long, pedicels filiform, arching, 2-3 cm long; ovary 6-8 mm long, flowers glabrous, yellow, non-resupinate; middle sepal elliptical-ovate, acute, 11.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, lateral sepals connate completely into a deeply concave, hood-shaped synsepal, ovate, subacute, 11 mm long, 8 mm wide unspread; petals elliptical, oblique, acute, 9 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 5-veined, directed forward together; lip suborbicular, 3.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, including a pair of obtuse basal lobes 1.5 mm long nearly surrounding the column, with an erect, obtuse, cone-shaped callus on each basal lobe to either side of the column, the apex rounded, the base acutely deflexed to unite with the column foot; column 2 mm long, with a short, thick foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *pelex* (πέλεξ), "a helmet," in reference to the shape of the uppermost synsepal.

TYPE: ECUADOR: NAPO: epiphytic in cloud forest ca. 20 km north of Baeza, alt. ca. 1500 m, 10 Aug. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Andretta & A. Hirtz 3183 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Ecuador.

The yellow flowers of *P. pelex* are extremely similar to those of *P. archidonae*, but the former are produced singly on long pedicels. The purple-spotted flowers of *P. archidonae* are produced in short, 2-flowered racemes. The calli of the lip of *P. pelex* are not as pronounced as they are in *P. archidonae*. The ranges of the two species will probably prove to overlap.