

**Pleurothallis stelidilabia** Luer, sp. nov.

Herba mediocris caespitosa caulibus secundariis erectis gracilibus teretibus, folio deflexo plano crasso rigido ovato-cordato breviter acuminato sessili, spatha erecta, flore singulari successivo albescenti non-resupinato, sepalo mediano ovato obtuso, synsepalo profunde concavo, petalis oblongis acutis intus minute verrucosis, labello parvo late cordato obtuso disco sulcato.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, unfoliate, slender, terete, 10-17 cm tall, with a close, brown, tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base. Leaf deflexed, flat, thick, rigidly coriaceous, ovate-elliptical, 5.5-6.5 cm long, 2.5-3.7 cm wide, the apex shortly acuminate, tridenticulate, the base deeply cordate, sessile. Inflorescence a fascicle of successive, single, yellowish white, non-resupinate flowers borne from an erect, conduplicate spathe 11-13 mm long, 5-6 mm wide, from the base of the leaf; peduncles 6-7 mm long, floral bract white, inflated, ca. 5 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary white, cellular-glandular, 2-3 mm long; sepals not wide-spreading, glabrous without, microscopically pubescent within, the middle sepal ovate, obtuse, 6 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into a deeply concave, obtuse, cucullate synsepal, 7 mm long, 8 mm wide spread out; petals oblong, acute, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, minutely verrucose within; lip yellowish white, cellular-glandular, broadly cordate, obtuse, 3 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, deflexed below the middle with erect, rounded margins, the disc sulcate between callous thickenings; column stout, 1.5 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the similarity of the lip to those of the genus *Stelis* Sw.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: epiphytic in cloud forest near Valladolid, alt. ca. 2000 m, July 1975, W. Teague, L. Figueroa & D. Welisch s.n., cult. by W. Teague in San Francisco, California, flowered in cult. 12 Dec. 1978, *C. Luer 3635* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This species is characterized by the thick, flat, deflexed, cordate leaves, an erect spathe, and a small, globular, yellowish white, non-resupinate flower. The small lip hidden within appears similar to the basic pattern of the lip of the genus *Stelis*.