

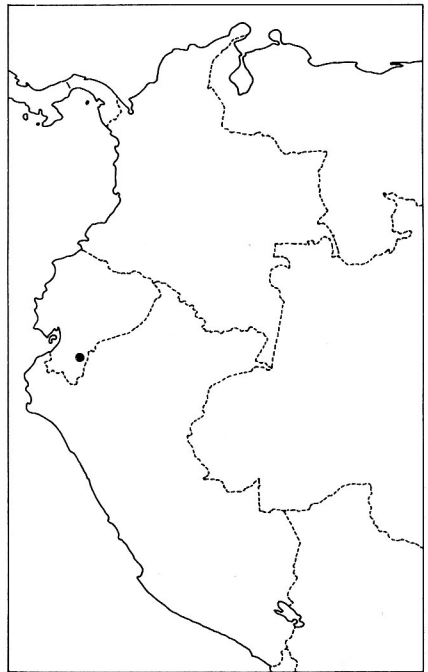
Porroglossum hirtzii Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Alexander C. Hirtz of Quito, Ecuador, who discovered this species.

Planta parva caespitosa, pedunculo erecto folio longipetiolato longiore, flore medio-cri albido pubescenti, sepalo dorsali ovato supra medium convexo, sepalis lateralibus triangularibus ecaudatis, petalis integris clavatis, lamina labelli cuneata angulis lateralibus subacutis, callo basali erecto.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls blackish, erect, slender, ca. 5 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, long-petiole, 4-5 cm long including the blackish petiole 1.5-2.5 cm long, the blade elliptical, obtuse to subacute, 9-11 mm wide, the base cuneate into the slender petiole. Inflorescence a congested, successively few-flowered raceme, the flowers resupinate, borne by a more or less erect, smooth, slender peduncle 7-8 cm long, with 2 closely applied, distant bracts, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, imbricating, 5-6 mm long; pedicel 10-11 mm long; ovary subverrucose, 4 mm long; sepals white, lightly suffused with pale rose, sparsely long-pubescent within, the veins prominent externally, the dorsal sepal ovate, narrowly obtuse, 9.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, convex above the middle, concave below the middle, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals triangular-ovate, subacute, 10 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, connate to each other 2 mm below the attachment to the column-foot; petals white, oblong, curved, 3.75 mm long, 1.25-2.5 mm wide, narrowed in the middle third, the apex thickened, slightly dilated, rounded, the lower margin with an obtuse angle in the lower third; lip white, suffused with rose, the blade shortly pubescent, cuneate, 3.75 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lateral angles subacute, the apex obtuse, sulcate medially, the base with a low, erect, transverse callus, deflexed below into a straplike claw bent with tension around the free apex of the column-foot; column stout, semiterete, 2 mm long, the foot 3.5 mm long.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: epiphytic in cloud forest near Nambija, alt. 1200 m, May 1985, *A. Hirtz* 2669 (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 11699.



This unusual species was recently discovered by mining engineer Alexander C. Hirtz during one of his trips to study the mineral potentialities around a gold mine in the Oriente of southern Ecuador, reminiscent of the travels and discoveries of F. C. Lehmann of the last century.

This species is unique in the genus with tailless, whitish flowers. The dorsal sepal is angled downward near the middle, convex above that point and concave below. The lateral sepals are more or less triangular with subacute apices. The clavate petals are entire. The cuneate, obtuse blade of the lip, subacutely angled laterally, has a small, erect callus at the base above the claw.