

Porroglossum parsonsii Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 12.

Ety.: Ronald L. Parsons, Jr., of Daly City, California, who cultivates this species.

Species haec *Porroglossum echidno* (Rchb.f.) Garay affinis, sed sepalorum lateralium caudis late expansis brevioribus, synsepali mento compresso acuto profunde concavo differt.

Plant medium in size for the genus, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots thickly fleshy. Ramicauls erect, stout, 10-12 mm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath and another at the base. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, petiolate, 6 cm long including the petiole 1 mm long, the blade elliptical, obtuse, 1.5 cm wide, narrowed below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a successively flowered, congested raceme, borne at the apex of an erect, densely pubescent peduncle to 12 cm long, with a bract about midway from the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, imbricating, 5-6 mm long; pedicels 7 mm long;

ovary densely short-spiculate, 5 mm long; **sepals** verrucose and tan with purple veins externally, glabrous and purple-brown within, the dorsal sepal obovate, 7 mm long, 6 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 4 mm to form a compressed cup, the apex obtuse, contracted into an erect, cylindrical tail 1 mm thick, that is narrowest in the lower quarter, ca. 14 mm long, the lateral sepals transversely oblong, oblique, 10 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate 6 mm to form an acute, deeply concave mentum below the free extension of the column-foot, the apices oblique, acuminate, contracted into widely expanded tails 14 mm long, similar to that of the dorsal sepal, all tails orange, suffused with dark purple; **petals** translucent, subovate, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide below the middle, narrowed above an obtuse angle on the lower margin, the tip rounded; **lip** dark purple, the blade cuneate, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide near the truncate apex, long-fimbriate at the apex, with a narrowly sulcate cavity within the apex, the lower two-thirds of the blade filled with an erect, compressed, rounded, subverrucose callus, the base extended into a slender, straplike claw bent with tension about the free apex of the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 2 mm long, the slender foot 4 mm long.

COLOMBIA: without collection data, obtained from a Colombian collector, in 2004, flowered in cultivation by Ron Parsons in Daly City, California, April 2006, Turkel, *C. Luer 20985* (Holotype: MO).

This Colombian species is closely allied to *Porroglossum echidnum* (Rchb.f.) Garay, a well-known species from the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia. Both species are characterized by rigid, subverrucose leaves, and a longer peduncle, covered by a dense, long pubescence, that bears a successively flowered raceme. Instead of brown or green, the sepals of *P. parsonsii* are tan externally with purple veins, and deep purple-brown within. Instead of more or less rounded, the sepaline cup of *P. parsonsii* is compressed, and with a deep, acute mentum. Instead of curving downward, the somewhat shorter and narrower sepaline tails of *P. parsonsii* expand widely and curve more or less upward.

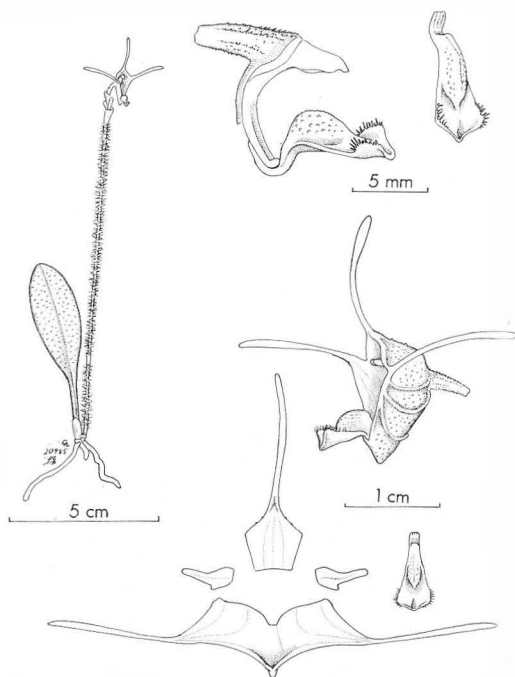


Fig. 12. *Porroglossum parsonsii*