

*Scaphosepalum ursinum* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta grandissima dense caespitosa, caulibus secundariis canaliculatis quam foliis magnis carnosis purpurascensibus longipetiolatis multibrevioribus, racemo folio plus minusve aequilongo floribus grandibus successivis, pedunculo suberecto infra glabro supra in rhachidi scaberulo, sepalis albivirescentibus purpureo guttatis extus puberulis, sepalo inferno ovato concavo supra medium compresso, synsepalo concavo pulvinis triangulatis caudis gracilibus subaequilongis, petalis dolabriformibus, labello trilobo, lobo antico deflexo obovato serrulato, lobis lateralibus prope medium brevibus oblongis, disco carinis dentatis duobus, basi oblongo concavo.

Plant large, epiphytic to semiterrestrial, shortly repent and densely caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, stout, semiterete, channeled, unifoliate, 6-8 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, fragmenting sheaths. Leaf suberect, fleshy, coriaceous, dark purplish green, narrowly obovate, long-petiolate, 20-30 cm long including the 8-11 cm long petiole, 3.5-4.5 cm wide, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below into the channeled petiole. Inflorescence a suberect to reclining, distichous, loose to dense, successively-flowered raceme 10-35 cm long including the peduncle, the peduncle smooth below, lightly scabrous above in the rachis, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 3-6 mm long; pedicel 9-20 mm long, scabrous; ovary 4 mm long, green, pubescent; flowers large, greenish white with purple spots, shortly pubescent externally; middle sepal ovate, carinate, concave below, 14 mm long 6 mm wide, the apical half compressed with reflexed sides, the acute apex uncinately; lateral sepals connate ca. 10 mm into a concave, bicarinate synsepal 13 mm long, 10 mm wide, with a well-formed, triangular pulvinus filling each of the diverging apices, the apices acute, produced into slender, decurved, pubescent tails 10 mm long; petals yellow-white marked with purple, dolabriform-pentangular, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apex obtuse, with a broadly obtuse angle on the labellar margin; lip greenish white marked with purple, ovate-ligulate, 3-lobed, deflexed near the middle, 5.25 mm long, 2.25 mm wide spread out, the anterior lobe obovate, obtuse, serrulate, the lateral lobes near the middle, oblong, rounded, with a pair of erect, dentate lamellae between, the basal portion elliptical, concave, bidentate at the short claw; column greenish white marked with purple, broadly winged, curved, 6 mm long, with a thick, sulcate foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *ursinus*, "of a bear," in allusion to the size of the plant and the appearance of the pubescent flower with sepaline tails like canine teeth.

TYPE: ECUADOR: CARCHI: epiphytic in cloud forest above Maldonado, alt. ca. 2500 m, 26 August 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 3408 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Northwestern Ecuador.

This huge species is characterized by the dark purplish green leaves and a large, pubescent, greenish white flower spotted with purple. The middle sepal is laterally compressed and the anterior lobe of the three-lobed lip is serrate.