

**Pleurothallis herpestes** Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. macrolepharis* Rehb. f. similis sed foliis angustissimis, racemo prostato brevior et lobis lateralibus labello tenuis unciformibus antrorsis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender, fasciculate, flexuous. Secondary stems unifoliate, abbreviated, 4-7 mm long, enclosed by 1-2 ribbed, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, dark green, coriaceous, linear-obovate, 3-4 cm long, 2.5-3 mm wide, the apex obtuse, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below to the slender base. Inflorescence a loose, flexuous, more or less prostrate, successively few-flowered raceme, 2-4 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bracts and pedicels each 1.5 mm long; ovary costate, 1.5 mm long; sepals glabrous, mm long, 3.75 mm wide, shallowly concave, minutely denticulate above the middle, the apex obtuse, apiculate, contracted below the middle into the broad, shallowly concave base, with a narrow glenion above the base; column slender, arcuate, 3 mm long, with a thick foot 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *giraffa*, "a giraffe," in allusion to the long-necked column.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: IMBABURA: epiphytic in cloud forest above Apuela, alt. ca. 2000 m, 8 Feb. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & A. Hirtz 3942 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: COTOPAXI: epiphytic in cloud forest near El Corazon, alt. 1200 m, 18 Feb. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4007 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Western Ecuador.

This is the only species of the "cordate-leaved" group that I have seen with an elongated, arcuate column.