

**Pleurothallis dracontea** Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. pachyglossae* Lindl. affinis sed sepalis intus villosis, petalis extus longituberculatis intus bicarinatis et labello minore angustioreque distinguitur.

Plant medium-sized, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, erect, unifoliate, 5-13 cm long, with a tubular sheath from below the middle and 1-2 short sheaths at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 5-9.5 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, the acute apex tridenticulate, the base cuneate, sessile. Inflorescence an erect, several-flowered raceme, 2-3 flowers open simultaneously, 10-17 cm long including the slender, 6-8 cm long peduncle from a slender, appressed, 1 cm long spathe at the base of the leaf; floral bract 4 mm long; pedicel 5-8 mm long; ovary 5-6 mm long; sepals dark purple, villous within, the hairs white, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acuminate, acute, 21 mm long, 5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, concave synsepal 22 mm long, 8 mm wide expanded, bicarinate, the toothed carinae protruding at the bifid apex; petals white, marked with purple, obovate-oblong, concave, the apex rounded, 5.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, long-tuberculate externally, smooth within except for 2 well-defined carinae along the outer nerves toward the apical margin, striped with purple along the 3 nerves; lip white, marked with purple, narrowly oblong-trilobed, thick, 6 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the basal lobes erect, short, rounded, the distal half semiterete, verrucose, incurved to the narrowly obtuse apex, the deflexed base hinged to the column-foot; column dark purple, semiterete, stout, 2 mm long, the foot white, also 2 mm long.

**Etymology:** From the Latin *draconteus*, "dragon-like," in allusion to the hairy, gaping mouth with a warty, upturned tongue.

**Type:** COSTA RICA: HEREDIA: epiphytic in cloud forest east of the pass north of Castillo, alt. 2000 m, 21 June 1981, C. Luer & A. Luer 6358 (Holotype: SEL; Isotype: CR).

**Distribution:** Costa Rica.

This species is related to *P. pachyglossa*, but may be distinguished by the sepals with a long-pubescent interior, by the petals with a long-tuberculate exterior and bicarinate interior, and by a small, verrucose lip with a narrow, upturned apex.