



PLEUROTHALLIS SPATHOSA Luer & R. Escobar

23. **PLEUROTHALLIS SPATHOSA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. pichincae* Rchb.f. affinis, sed habitu majore, foliis sessilibus, spatha maxima et labelli callo transverso supra basim altissimo differt.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Santander: epiphytic in dwarf cloud forest east of Bucaramanga toward Berlin, alt. 3300 m, 7 May 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10175 (Holotype: MO).

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *spathosus*, "con una espata grande", en referencia al tamaño de la espata.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *spathosus*, "with a large spathe," referring to the size of the spathe.

Plant large, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots coarse, numerous. Ramicauls fasciculate, stout, erect, 20-30 cm long, with a large, loose tubular sheath near the middle, and 2-3 tubular, imbricating sheaths about the base.

Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, the blade 12-15 cm long, 3-4.5 cm wide, cuneate below into a sessile base. **Inflorescence** racemose, racemes 1 to 4 simultaneous, more or less secund, densely and simultaneously many-flowered, 12-15 cm long including the peduncle ca. 4 cm long, subtended by a large, conduplicate, foliaceous spathe 4-5.5 cm long, from an annulus at the base of the leaf, 2-3 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts 3 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, carinate, minutely ciliate, the dorsal sepal elliptical-ovate, subacute to obtuse, concave, 4.75 mm long, 3 mm wide unexpanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals elliptical-oblong, subacute, apiculate, 5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 2.5 mm; **petals** translucent yellow, oblong-

obovate, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, fleshy, trilobed, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, the middle lobe ovate, obtuse, the lateral lobes below the middle, erect, obtuse to rounded, each fully occupied by a rounded callous on the inner surface, the disc slightly concave above a tall, transverse callus above the basal cavity, articulated with the end of the column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, the foot thick, 0.5 mm long with the bulbous tip free, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

Vegetativamente esta especie robusta se parece a *P. cassidis* y sus parientes: ramicaules fuertes con vainas grandes, infladas; hojas grandes, sésiles; y una espata foliácea muy grande. La inflorescencia, sin embargo, es muy similar a la de *P. pichincha*: pequeñas flores con las partes florales obtusas, pétalos con tres venas, y un labelo trilobulado con callos superpuestos redondeados y lóbulos laterales obtusos. Más característico del labelo es el callo transversal, alto y angosto, que separa el disco de la cavidad basal.

Vegetatively this robust species resembles *P. cassidis* and its relatives; stout ramicauls with long, inflated sheaths; large, sessile leaves; and a very large, foliaceous spathe. The inflorescence, however, is very similar to that of *P. pichincha*: small flowers with obtuse floral parts, three-veined petals, and a three-lobed lip with obtuse lateral lobes overlain by rounded calli. Most distinctive of the lip is the tall, narrow, transverse callus that separates the disc from the basal cavity.