

***Pleurothallis taxis* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta parva caespitosa, caulibus secundariis crassis laxè vaginatis, foliis erectis ellipticis breviter petiolatis, spatha magna, racemo erecto densifloro folio aequilongo, bracteis cucullatis imbricantibus, floribus secundis marroninis, sepalis ovatis acutis intus pubescentibus, sepalis lateralibus ad medium connatis, petalis oblongis apice rotundatis, labello subquadrato apice truncato retuso basi lobis rotundatis erectis disco bicarinato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems unifoliate, stout, 2.5-4 cm long, more or less fasciculate, contained within 3 loose, papery, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, oblong-elliptical, petiolate, 4.5-6 cm long including the 5 mm petiole, 2-2.5 cm wide, the apex rounded to obtuse, tridenticulate, cuneate below into the channeled petiole. Inflorescence an erect, secund raceme, densely flowered to the base, 6-7 cm long, from a conduplicate spathe 12-14 mm long, from near the apex of the secondary stem; floral bracts imbricating, cucullate, ovate, obtusely acuminate, 8 mm long, 8 mm wide spread out, enclosing the lower parts of the flowers; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals maroon, not widely spread, glabrous without, pubescent within above the middle, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, tricarinate, 8.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, acute, 8 mm long, connate to near the middle, 4.5 mm wide together; petals oblong, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex rounded, the 3 veins dark purple on translucent light purple; lip subquadrate, 3.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide spreadout, the dark purple apex truncate-retuse, the base dilated into a pair of large, rounded, translucent greenish white, erect lobes flanking the column, the disc with a pair of rounded carinae above the middle; column rose, semiterete, 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *taxis* (τάξις), "a row, or a line," referring to the secund inflorescence.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest near the pass north of Loja, alt. ca. 3000 m, 12 Feb. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & M. Portilla 2563 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

Pleurothallis taxis may be recognized by the loosely sheathed, fascicled secondary stems and a densely flowered raceme of maroon flowers subtended by cucullate bracts. The labellum is subquadrate with the apex broad and retuse, and with erect, rounded basal lobes.