

Pleurothallis flexibilis Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris pendens, caulibus secundariis gracilibus flexibilibus flexuosis vaginis lepanthiformibus folio anguste elliptico longioribus, racemo brevi congesto paucifloro, floribus minutis purpureis, sepalis obtusis concavis ciliatis, petalis nanis oblongis ciliatis, labello ligulato ciliato basi bilobulato, columna bidentata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, pendent; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, descending, weak, flexible, flexuous, unifoliate, 5-14 cm long, enclosed by 8-14 close, imbricating, ribbed sheaths with dilated, oblique ostia with thickened, ciliated margins. Leaf pendent, coriaceous, elliptical, 3.5-9 cm long, 0.9-1.5 cm wide, the apex acute, tridentate, the base cuneate to a short, indistinct petiole. Inflorescence a short, congested raceme, up to 15 mm long including the 6-7 mm long peduncle, of 4-6 minute flowers, from the apex of the secondary stem; floral bract, pedicel and ovary each 1 mm long; sepals purple, whitish toward the base, concave, the margins sparsely ciliate, otherwise glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, 2.25 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex rounded, the lateral sepals ovate, obtuse, 2.25 mm long, 2.1 mm wide together, connate to above the middle to form a shallow mentum below the column-foot; petals translucent watery purple, oblong, 1 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the rounded apex sparsely ciliate; lip purple-black with white cilia, oblong, 1.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the apex rounded, the base minutely bilobulate, hinged to the column-foot, the disc with a low, longitudinal callus extending from the base; column pale yellow, semiterete, 1.5 mm long, broadly winged above the middle and ending in a pair of apical teeth, the foot channeled, 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *flexibilis*, "flexible," referring to the weak, pendent, flexible secondary stems.

TYPE: *BOLIVIA*: COCHABAMBA: Prov. of Chapare, epiphytic in rain forest along Rio Evispas near the road to Villa Tunari, alt. 500 m, 16 Jan. 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer, E. Besse & R. Vásquez 5639 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Bolivia.

This lepanthiform-stemmed species is characterized by the weak, pendent, flexuous, flexible stems, narrowly elliptical leaves, and a short, congested, few-flowered raceme of minute, purple flowers. The concave sepals are ciliated as well as the ligulate lip. The longitudinal callus of the lip is low, and the apex of the column is bidentate.