

Platystele ~~enervis~~ Luer, sp. nov.

Planta ~~parva~~, racemo flaccido flexuoso capillari folio longipetiolato ~~multilongiore~~, floribus minutissimis successivis, sepalis ovatis ~~enerviis~~, lateralibus obtusis brevicaudatis, petalis angustissimis, ~~labello~~ ovato acuto.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 6-8 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 ribbed, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, long-petiolate, 15-21 mm long including the 4-8 mm long petiole, 3-4 mm wide, cuneate below into the slender petiole. Inflorescence a weak, flexuous, loosely flowered raceme up to 7 cm long including the capillary peduncle 1.5-2 cm long, the flowers successive, minute; floral bract 0.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 0.25 mm long; sepals purple, white toward the apices, glabrous, free, without visible nerves, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 0.8 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, obtuse, 0.6 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, the obtuse apex abruptly contracted into a short tail; petals very narrowly triangular, acute, 0.6 mm long, 0.1 mm wide; lip purple, cellular-pubescent, ovate, acute, 0.6 mm long, 0.4 mm wide; column thinly cucullate, 0.4 mm long, 0.4 mm wide.

Etymology: From the Latin *enervis*, "without a nerve," referring to the sepals and petals.

Type; Ecuador: Prov. of Pichincha: epiphytic in cloud forest near Los Faisanes, alt. ca. 2000 m, 15 July 1983, A. Hirtz 1009 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9164.

This species is most notable for the extremely small flowers produced on a hairlike, flexuous raceme much longer than the long-petiolate leaves. The sepals and petals are less than one millimeter long and without any trace of a midvein.