

Platystele pubescens Luer, sp. nov.

Planta pusilla, racemo flexuoso folio longipetiolato duplolongiore, sepalis ovatis acutis ciliatis pubescentibus, petalis obovatis acutis ciliatis, labello transverse ovato obtuso.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 2-4 mm long, concealed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, long-petiolate, 13-20 mm long including the 4-10 mm long petiole, 4-7 mm wide, cuneate below into the slender petiole. Inflorescence a loose, ~~florose~~, successively flowered raceme up to 35 mm long including the capillary peduncle 15-20 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 2.5-3 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; sepals yellow with a red midvein, ciliate, pubescent above the middle, ovate, acute, 1-veined, free, the dorsal sepal 2.3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals oblique, 2 mm long, 1.2 mm wide; petals yellow with a red midvein, obovate, acute, ciliate, 2.3 mm long, 0.7 mm wide; lip red, cellular-pubescent, transversely ovate, obtuse, 0.8 mm long, 1 mm wide; column thinly cucullate, ca. 1 mm long and wide.

Etymology: From the Latin pubescens, "pubescent," referring to the pubescent sepals.

Type: Ecuador: Prov. of Pichincha: epiphytic in cloud forest near San Miguel de los Bancos, alt. 1300 m, July 1983, A. Hirtz 1044 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9163.

Although similar in many respects to those species in the widespread and variable "lancilabris-complex," this species may be distinguished by the pubescent sepals and transversely ovate, obtuse lip.