



Fig. 2. *Pleurothallis adelphe* Luer & Hirtz.

Pleurothallis adelphe Luer & Hirtz, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: ECUADOR. Azuay: epiphytic near Santa Rosa near Cuenca, alt. 3000 m, Feb. 1985, A. Hirtz 2231 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 2.

Species haec *P. cardiostolae* Rchb.f. affinis, sed habitu majore, floribus minoribus, spatha parva prostrata et petalis anguste oblongis integris differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 20–40 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath on the lower third and 2 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** spreading or deflexed, coriaceous, concave basally, ovate, acute, 10–16 cm long, 3–4.5 cm wide, the base sessile, deeply cordate. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive, single flowers, borne from a prone spathe 1 cm long, at the base of the leaf; peduncles 2–3 mm long; floral bracts tubular, 5 mm long; pedi-

cels 6 mm long; ovary 6–7 mm long, cellular-verrucose; **sepals** light brown, minutely pubescent, the dorsal sepal broadly elliptical, obtuse, 7 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, 5-(7)-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, obtuse synsepal with more or less revolute margins, 7 mm long, 5 mm wide, 4-(6)-veined; **petals** brown, oblong, acute, entire, microscopically subverrucose, 5.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** dark brown, thick, ovoid, 3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with the apex obtuse with margin thickened, the disc concave between a pair of obtusely angled calli, the base truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, terete, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm broad, the foot thick, obsolescent, with the anther, rostellum and stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *adelphē*, “a sister,” referring to the close relationship of the species to *P. cardiostola*.

This species of section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*, apparently endemic at a high altitude in southern Ecuador, is related to *P. cardiostola* which is widely distributed at lower altitudes through much of the Andes. *Pleurothallis adelphe* is distinguished by the proportionately longer ramicauls; longer leaves; a small, prostrate spathe; and smaller flowers with narrow, entire,

one-veined petals. The lip is similar to that of *P. cardiostola*, but smaller than the average.