

**Pleurothallis aculeata** Luer & Hirtz, *sp. nov.*  
TYPE: ECUADOR. Morona-Santiago: Cordillera del Cutucú, epiphytic in forest along the new road to Morona, alt. ca. 900 m, 19 Jan. 1989, A. Hirtz, A. Andreetta & S. Ortega 4132 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 1.

Species haec *P. casapensidis* Lindl. affinis, sed habitu minore cum foliis ellipticis, pedunculis unifloris et labello oblongo dense spiculato differt.

**Plant** small to medium in size, epiphytic, shortly repent, the rhizome stout, 0.5–1 cm long between ramicauls; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, compressed and slightly channeled, ascending to erect, slightly broader toward the leaf, 4.5–5 cm long, with 2–3 thin, tubular sheaths at the base. **Leaf** spreading, fleshy, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 4–5 cm long, 2.5–3 cm wide, the base sessile, subcordate. **Inflorescence** a fascicle

of single, successive flowers, borne on top of the leaf, subtended by a spathe 5–6 mm long from the apex of the ramicaul; peduncles 3 mm long; floral bracts 2.5 mm long; pedicels 3.5 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; **sepals** fleshy, the dorsal sepal yellow with 3 purple stripes, narrowly oblong, obtuse, minutely pusticulate above the middle within, 9 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals purple, connate into a broadly elliptical, obtuse, minutely bifid lamina with recurved margins, 8 mm long, 6 mm wide, 6-veined; **petals** yellow, obovate, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined, with the margins minutely denticulate above the middle; **lip** dark blackish brown, thick, fleshy, oblong-subtrilobed, 5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex rounded, denticulate, the lateral lobes broadly rounded, erect, below the middle, the disc diffusely short-spiculate, with a thick pair of parallel, minutely spiculate carinae on the middle third anterior to the marginal lobes, the base truncate, minutely lobed at the angles, hinged to the tip of the column-foot; **column** slender, 2.5 mm long, minutely denticulate at the apex, the foot 2 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *aculeatus*, “prickly,” referring to the lip.

This species of subgenus *Acianthera* section *Sicariae* is known only from the original collection from the Cordillera del Cutucú in southeastern

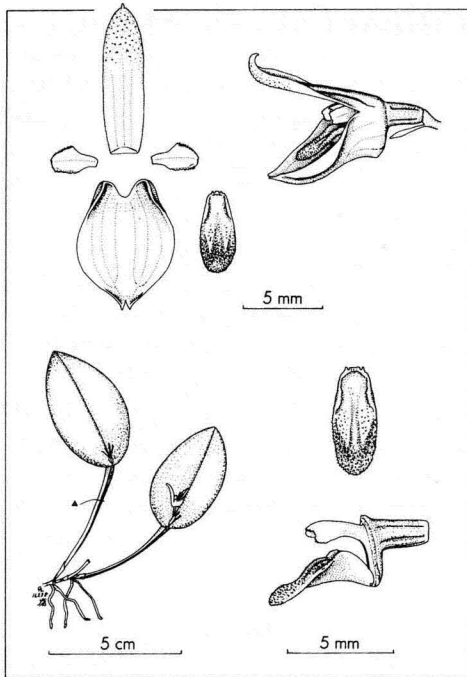


Fig. 1. *Pleurothallis aculeata* Luer & Hirtz.

Ecuador. It is characterized by the creeping rhizome producing short, triquetrous ramicauls that bear a spreading, elliptical leaf. A single, colorful flower is borne successively in a short fascicle at the base of the leaf. The erect dorsal sepal is striped in purple, and the synsepal is purple. The petals are obtuse and minutely denticulate. The blackish lip is densely short-spiculate.