

***Pleurothallis omissa* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *omissus*, "omitted," referring to the status of the species for Venezuela.

Species haec *P. fockei* Lindl. affinis, sed sepalo dorsali obtuso synsepaloque aequilongis, et labello ad apicem late rotundo cum lobis marginalis infra medium retrorsis differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, shortly repent, the rhizome 3-5 mm long between ramicauls, roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 8-11 cm long, enclosed about the base by 2-3 tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, sessile, 5-7 cm long, 1-1.3 cm wide, cuneate below into the base. Inflorescence a congested, 2- to 3-flowered raceme, ca. 5 mm long, borne by a slender, arching peduncle, 15-20 mm long, slightly thicker toward the raceme, subtended by a spathe ca. 5 mm long, from the apex of the ramicaul at the base of the leaf; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicel 0.5 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long; sepals fleshy, glabrous, light brown, with the apices convex, very slightly subverrucose, the dorsal sepal oblong, obtuse, 5-5.5 mm long, 1.75-2 mm wide, with the 3 veins purple, connate 1 mm to the synsepal, the lateral sepals suffused with purple, connate to near the apex into an oblong, obtuse, shortly bifid synsepal, 5-5.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide unexpanded; petals translucent brown, elliptical, acute, minutely fimbriate, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, with the midvein purple; lip dark red-purple, fleshy, ovate-trilobed, unguiculate, broadly rounded at the apex, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, with the margins minutely serrate, with the lateral lobes below the middle above the claw, rounded, retrorse, the disc shallowly concave between a pair of low calli on the middle third, the base shortly unguiculate, bilobulate, hinged to the column-foot; column slender, semiterete, 2.5 mm long, the foot 1 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

VENEZUELA: Amazonas: Río Casiquiare, alt. ca. 500 ft., collected by D. Patrek, Aug. 1963, *G.C.K. Dunsterville* 794 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19178.

This species is apparently endemic in lowland, Amazonian Venezuela, in the region of Río Casiquiare where the Río Orinoco connects with the Río Amazonas. It was illustrated by Dunsterville but it was not incorporated into *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated*, possibly because of its similarity to *P. fockei*. Vegetatively, the two species are similar with a short, crowded, few-flowered raceme borne by a considerably longer peduncle. The dorsal sepal of *P. fockei* is acute and considerably shorter than the synsepal, while the dorsal sepal of *P. omissa* is obtuse and as long as the synsepal. The margins of the sepals of both species are decurved from near the middle, and the margins of the petals of both species are minutely fimbriate. The lip of *P. fockei* is acute with erect, broadly rounded sides below the middle, while the lip of *P. omissa* is broadly rounded at the apex, and with retrorse, marginal lobes below the middle above the unguiculate base.

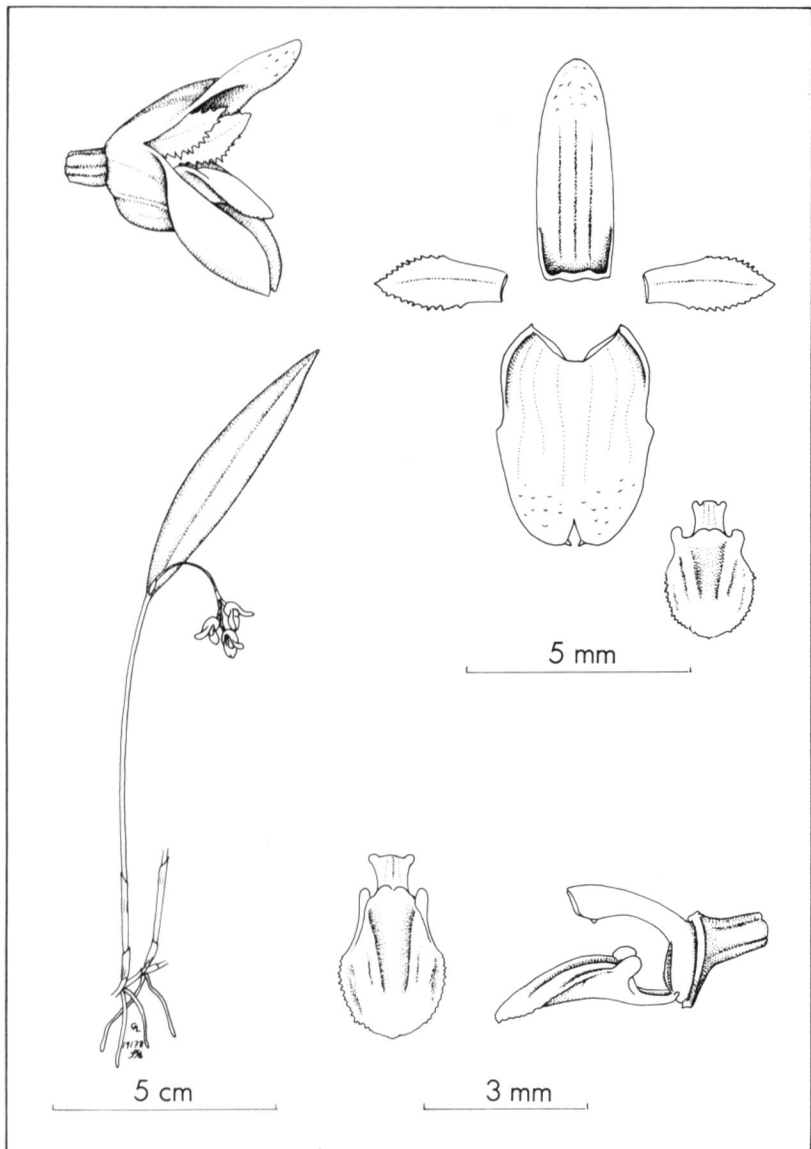


Fig. 30a. *Pleurothallis omissa*