

Pleurothallis garciae Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Carlos García E. of Caracas, Venezuela, who collected this species.

Species haec *P. yauaperyensis* Barb.Rodr. affinis, sed foliis cordatis latioribusque, floribus majoribus, sepalo dorsali spathulato et synsepalo supra medium convexo pubescenti differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, long-repent; rhizome slender, 1.5-2.5 cm long between ramicauls; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, triquetrous, ascending, suberect, 2-4 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath at the base. Leaf more or less spreading, coriaceous, ovate, subacute to obtuse, 2.5-5 cm long, 2-3.5 cm wide, shallowly cordate at the sessile base. Inflorescence a single flower, borne in a fascicle from a spathe 4 mm long at the base of the leaf; pedicel 6-7 mm long; floral bract 6 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals white, striped and marked with purple, fleshy, the dorsal sepal glabrous, oblong-spathulate, obtuse, thickened toward the apex, 8-11.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, concave, obtuse, minutely bifid synsepal, 7-8 mm long, 6.5-7 mm wide, 6-veined, with a well-defined convex, pubescent area occupying the apical half; petals translucent, with a purple midvein, elliptical, acute, minutely serrate above the middle, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; lip ovoid-trilobed, cream, suffused with pink, 4-4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex subacute or obtuse, minutely denticulate, with erect, subacute lateral lobes on the basal third, the disc with a pair of carinae on the middle third, thickened above the base, truncate, minutely lobed at the corners, hinged to the tip of the column-foot; column slender, 3 mm long, denticulate at the apex, the foot 2 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

VENEZUELA: **Carabobo:** Río San Gián, south of Borburata, alt. 350-500 m, 7-8 Aug. 1965, *J.A. Steyermark 94334* (Holotype: AMES; Isotype: VEN). **Falcón:** Sierra de San Luis, rain forest near Curimagua, Dec. 1959, collected by C. García, *G.C.K. Dunsterville 536* (SEL, MO). Without locality, sterile, 1854-56, *A. Fendler 2445* (K).

Probably first collected by Fendler in the nineteenth century, this long-repent species is apparently endemic in the coastal mountains of northwestern Venezuela. Dunsterville's illustration in *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated* was misidentified as *P. consimilis* Ames which is conspecific with *P. yauaperyensis*. This species is distinguished from the latter by broader, shallowly cordate leaves; a larger, solitary flower with a long, spathulate, dorsal sepal; and a synsepal that is convex and pubescent above the middle. The lip is minutely serrate, and the calli are smooth.

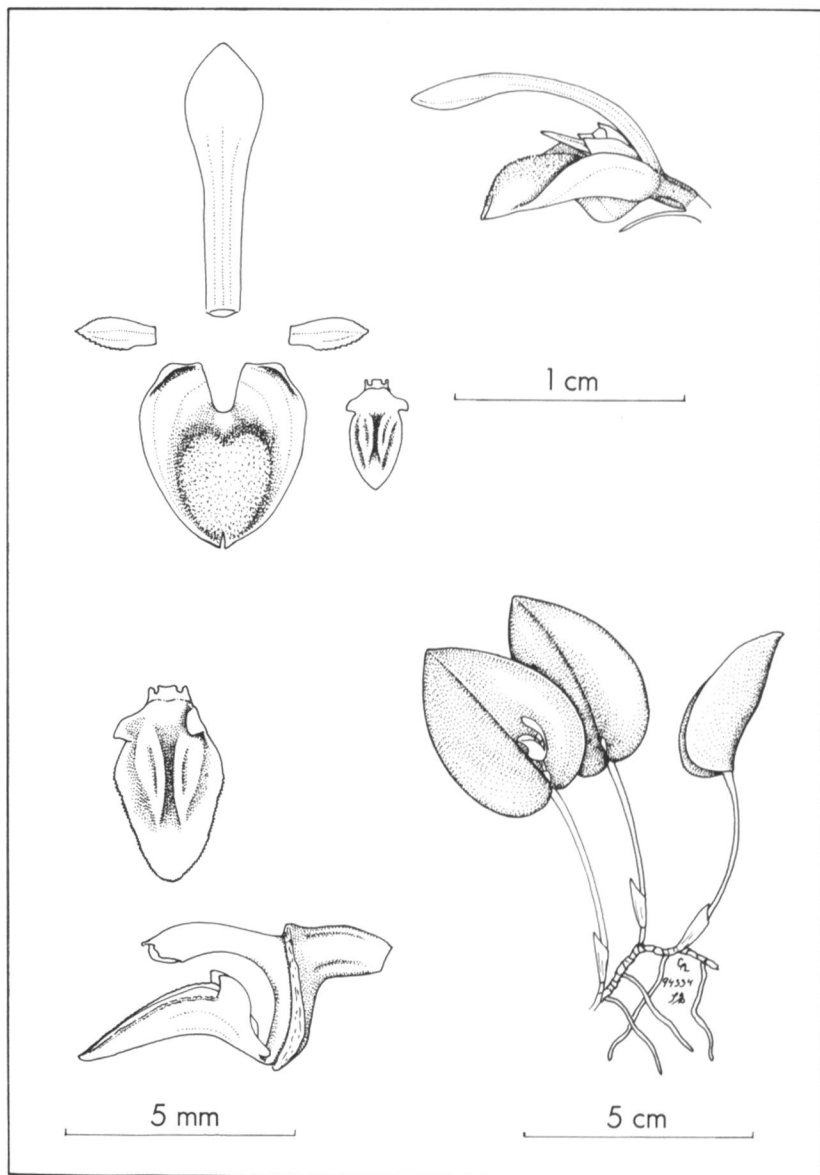


Fig. 27a. *Pleurothallis garciae*