

***Pleurothallis florosa* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa florosa, caulibus secundariis crassis supra medium compressis unifoliatis, folio erecto crasso elliptico acuto base cuneato sessili, recemo brevi paucifloro, floribus carnosus glabris flavovirentibus purpureo suffusis vittatisque, sepalis oblongis obtusis sepalis lateralibus semiconnatis, petalis spatulatis subacutis serrulatis diaphinis unistriatis, labello crasso late elliptico marginibus infra medium erectis rotundatis, apice obtuso verruculoso, callo disci ad basim plano utrinque concavo.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems stout, terete below, compressed above, 3-4 cm long, 3 mm deep above, with a basal, tubular sheath and 1-2 shorter ones below, unifoliate. Leaf erect, thick, coriaceous, elliptical, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate, sessile, 4-5.5 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide. Inflorescence a short (2-2.5 cm), crowded, few-flowered (4-6) raceme, produced in continuous succession, from a spathe about 5 mm long, at the base of the leaf; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary glabrous, spotted with purple, 1.5 mm long; flowers fleshy, glabrous, yellowish green suffused and striped with red-purple; dorsal sepal oblong, obtuse, 7 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3(5)-veined, the lateral sepals similar to the dorsal sepal, connate to above the middle, slightly oblique, each 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; petals spatulate, subacute, serrate above the middle, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; lip thick, broadly elliptical, with erect, rounded margins below the middle which cannot be spread, the apex obtuse, with callously thickened, verruculose margins above the middle, the base shortly unguiculate, the disc with a smooth, flat callus from the base to above the middle, flanked by shallow concavities between the callus and the erect margins of the lip, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; column winged, 2.5 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *florosus*, "abounding in flowers," in reference to the continuous procession of racemes.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MANABI?: purchased by Roberto Estrada of Guayaquil from a collector who probably obtained the plant in Manabi, cult. in Guayaquil, 24 Feb. 1977, *C. Luer 1573* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

According to Roberto Estrada, who has had the plant in cultivation in Guayaquil, Ecuador, for several years, this little species is never without flowers. Each short, long-lasting raceme is replaced by another in continuous succession.

*Pleurothallis florosa* is similar to the Costa Rican *P. brunnescens* Schltr., but the flowers of the latter are a little smaller with acuminate petals, and apparently the lip lacks the flat callus flanked by the shallow depressions.

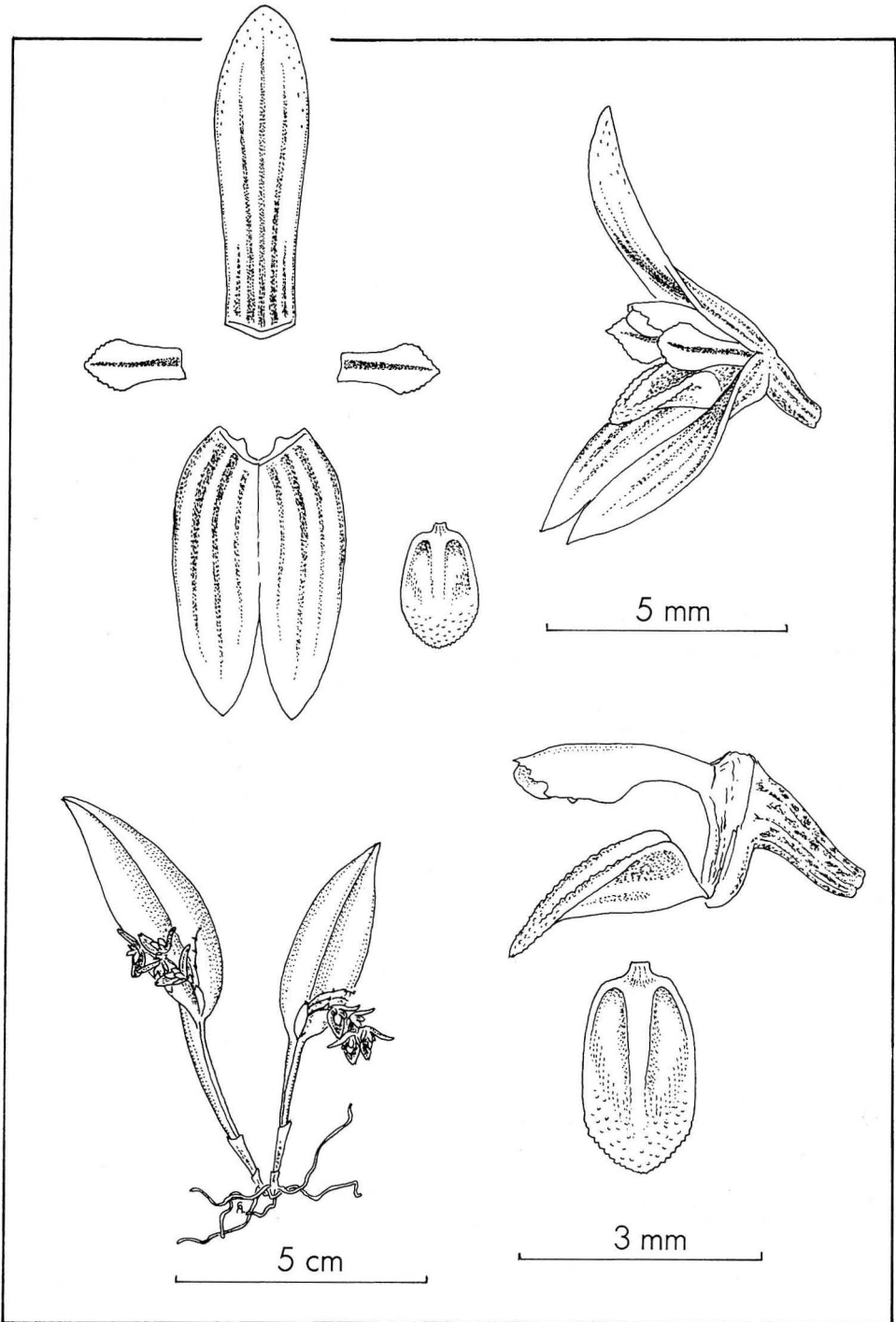


Figure 251. *PLEUROTHALLIS FLOROSA* Luer