

Pleurothallis dalstroemii Luer, sp. nov.

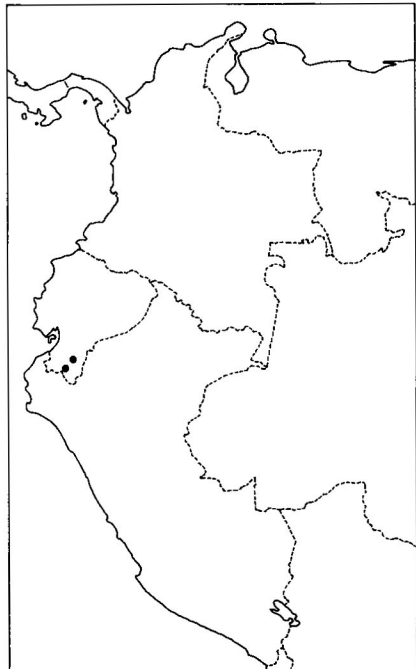
Ety.: Named in honor of Stig Dalström of Falun, Sweden, who first discovered this species.

Planta parva rhizomate breviter ascendenti, racemis paucifloris foliis ellipticis plus minusve aequilongis, ovario longispiculato, sepalis late ovatis obtusis breviter acuminatis, petalis anguste ovatis, et labello late cordato breviter acuminato cum disco antice concavo postice verruculoso.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose, the rhizome more or less ascending; roots comparatively coarse, fasciculate. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1-2 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, loose, ribbed, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, petiolate, subacute to obtuse, 15-18 mm long including a petiole 4-5 mm long, 5-6 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively 2- to 3-flowered raceme up to 20 mm long borne by a capillary peduncle 10-15 mm long, from the ramicaul; floral bract oblique, acute, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2-3 mm long; ovary densely spiculate, 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent rose with purple veins, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, shortly acuminate, concave, 3.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide expanded, barely 3-veined, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, shortly acuminate, 3.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1.75 mm to above the middle; **petals** translucent with purple midvein, narrowly ovate, acute, 3.5 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** purple, suborbicular-cordate, 2.5 mm long, 2.3 mm wide, the margins slightly irregular, the apex obtuse, shortly acuminate, the disc longitudinally thickened in the center with a small cavity above the middle, minutely papillose at the base, the base attached to the base of the column; **column** purple, stout, semiterete, 1.75 mm long, dilated above the middle, the anther, rostellum and stigma apical, the foot obsolescent.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Loja: epiphytic in cold cloud forest above Jimbura, alt. 3000 m, 21 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & J. Kuijt 9658 (Holotype: MO; Isotypes: AMES, K); same area, alt. 2600 m, 21 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores & A. Embree 11983 (MO). Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipe: Cajanuma range south of Loja, alt. 2800 m, 16 Dec. 1982, S. Dalström 361 (SEL), C. Luer illustr. 8707.

This species was first discovered by Stig Dalström in the Cajanuma Mountains in the province of Zamora-Chinchipe in southern Ecuador, and it has subsequently been found growing abundantly among long chains of *Lepanthes stalactites* in a cold forest on the Peruvian border in the province of Loja. Nevertheless, *P. dalstroemii* remains rare and seldom collected. It is identified by the small, ascending habit; short, few-flowered racemes; a long-pubescent ovary; rather simple sepals and petals; and a broadly cordate lip with a small cavity at the front end of a callus on the disc.



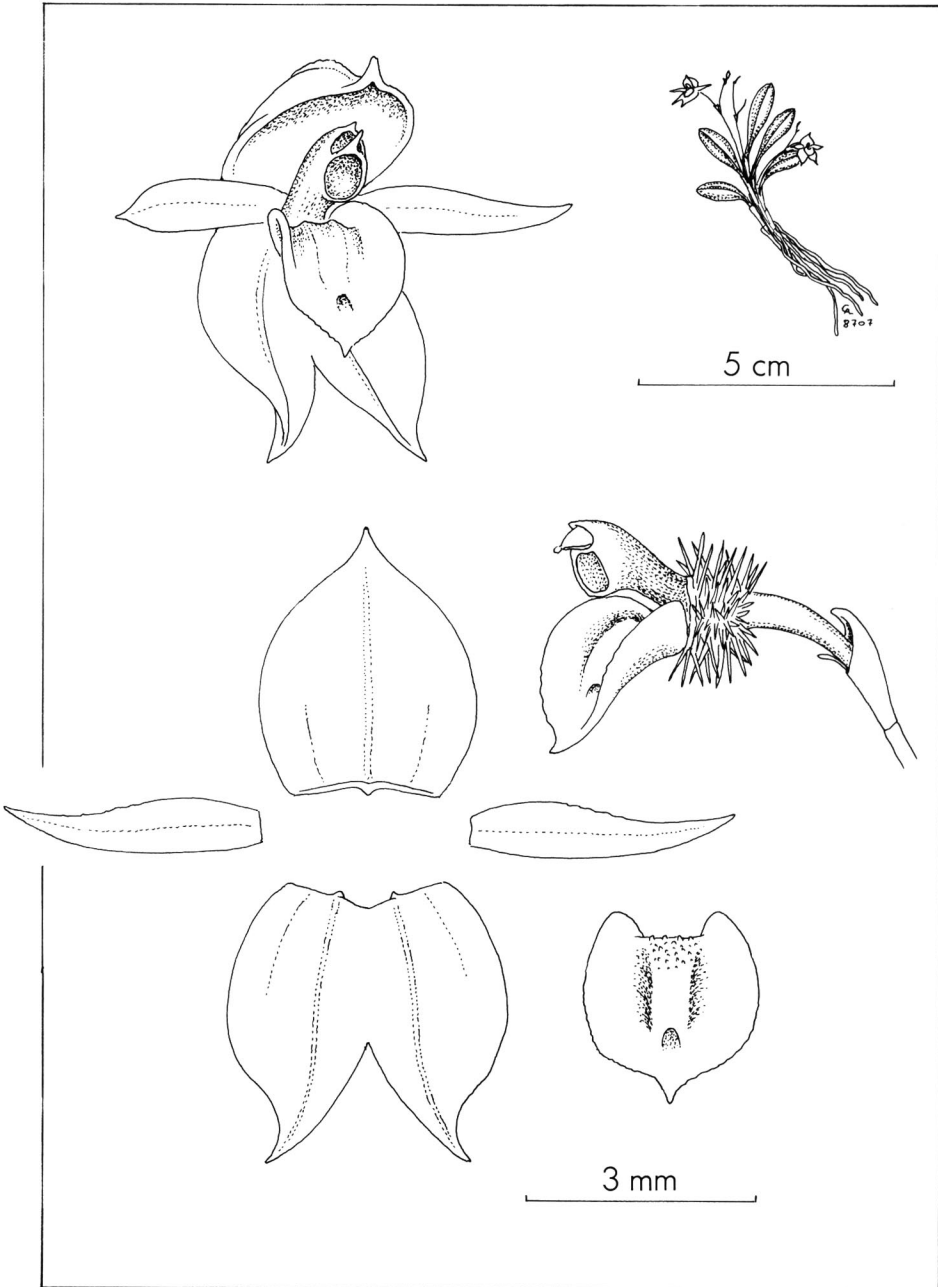


Plate 1. *Pleurothallis dalstroemii* Luer