

Pleurothallis pogonion Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *pogonion*, "the little beard," referring to the smaller size than *P. schizopogon*.

Species haec *P. schizopogoni* Luer affinis, sed habitu et flore multiminoribus differt.

Plant very small, epiphytic, ascending, the rhizome stout, 2-5 mm long between ramicauls; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, ascending, 3-4 mm long, enclosed by 1-2 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** suberect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, 10-20 cm long, 4-6 mm wide, the apex obtuse to rounded, base gradually narrowed into a subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively 2- to 3-flowered raceme, 15-25 mm long including the capillary peduncle, borne laterally from the ramicaul; floral bract oblique, acute, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary long-spiculate, 1 mm long; **sepals** purple, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acute, acuminate, 7-8 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, oblique, long-pubescent-spiculate, the apices acute, acuminate, 7-8 mm long, connate 2.5 mm, 2.75 mm wide together; **petals** purple, narrowly linear-ovate, acute, long-acuminate, 6-8 mm long, 0.6-1 mm wide, the margins subspiculate; **lip** purple, thick, subquadrate, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the margins muriculate, the apex subtruncate, shortly acuminate with a keel on the undersurface, the disc papillose, with a rounded depression behind the apex, deflexed below the middle and held against the column, with broadly rounded, erect, sides flanking the column, the base hinged to the base of the column; **column** purple, stout, semiterete, 1.5 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical, the foot obsolete.

EDUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipec: cloud forest above Valladolid, alt. 2700 m, 3 Mar. 1982, *C. Luer*, *S. Dalström et al.* 7116 (Holotype: SEL). Prov. of Loja: without data, flowered in cultivation by B. Malo at Tarqui, 26 Feb. 1982, *C. Luer* 7028 (SEL).

This uncommon, tiny species is closely allied to the frequent *P. schizopogon*, and it can occur in the same locality. Because *P. schizopogon* is variable in size, this species was at first thought to be merely a small form, but in retrospect the two taxa appear distinct. Except for size, the floral morphology of the two are similar. The sepals of vegetatively larger *P. schizopogon* are more than two centimeters long, while the sepals of the small *P. pogonion* do not surpass one centimeter. The lateral sepals vary from sparsely to densely spiculate (Fig. 1, page 53).



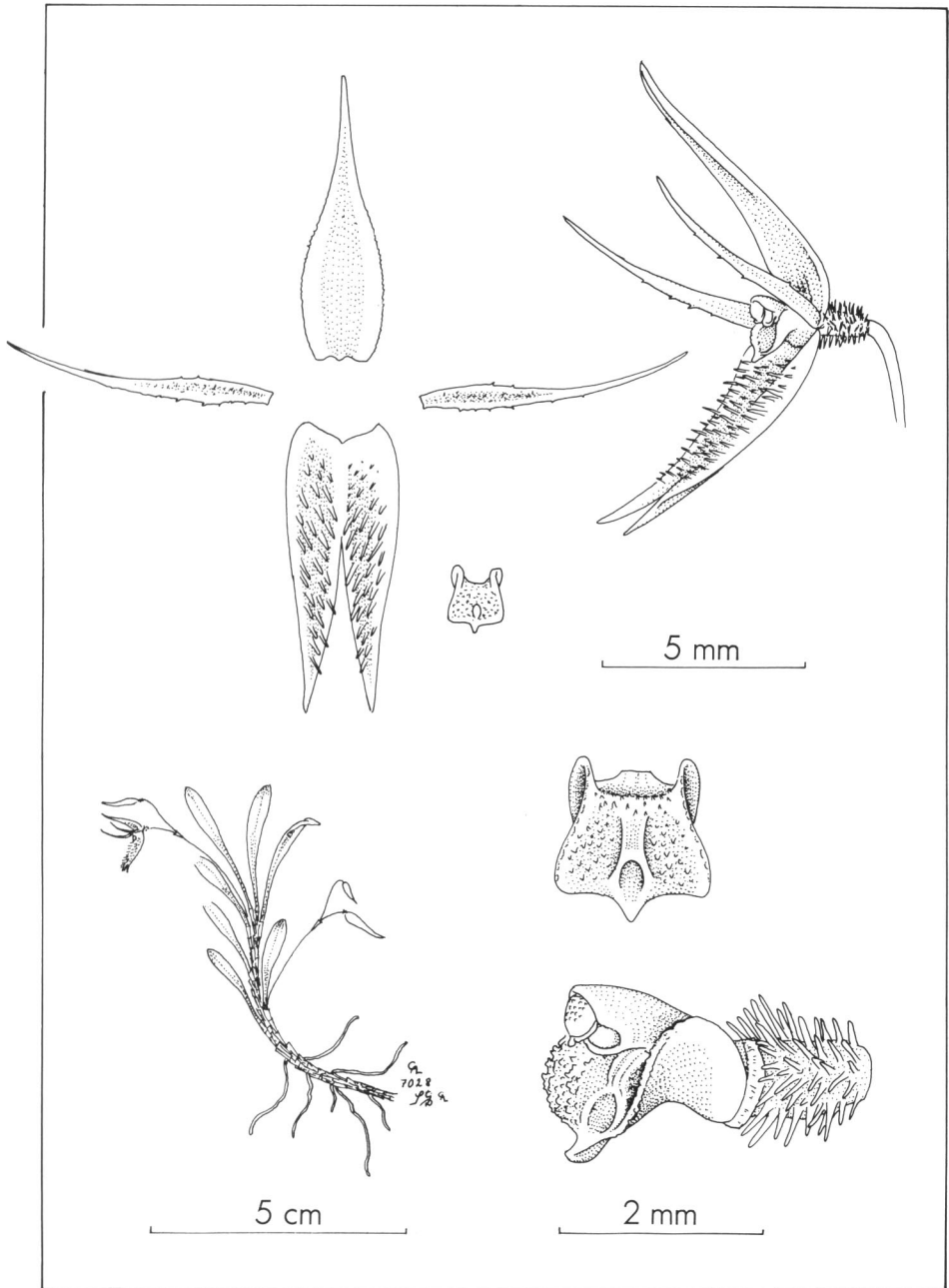


Plate 5. *Pleurothallis pogonion* Luer