

***Pleurothallis lappiformis* Heller & Williams, sp. nov.**

Caules secundariis breves, 2–3 mm. longes; folia anguste elliptica, subcoriacea, longe petiolata; inflorescentia uniflora; flores sessiles, lappiformes, pubescentes; sepalum dorsale anguste triangulare, acutum; sepala lateralia adnata, oblonga vel oblongo-ovata, obtusa; petala anguste lanceolata, acuta; labellum oblongo-ovatum, trilobatum.

Repent epiphytic herbs from a creeping rhizome. Rhizomes flexuose, covered with sheaths which soon disintegrate, the internodes short, 2–3 mm. long; secondary stems short and inconspicuous, up to 8 mm. long at maturity; leaves narrowly elliptic, erect or spreading, subcoriaceous, long petiolate, the petiole to about 2.5 cm. long and canaliculate above, the blade 7–11 cm. long and 1.5–3.2 cm. broad, the apex obscurely retuse with an apicule in the sinus; inflorescence 1-flowered, the flower borne at the apex of the secondary stem or from a node on the rhizome; flowers burr-like, vinaceous red, the perianth densely pubescent with coarse, appressed, sometimes flattened hairs which are bi-trifurcate toward the tip; dorsal sepal narrowly triangular, obscurely papillose within, acute, pubescent dorsally, about 11 mm. long and 3 mm. broad at the base, adnate to the laterals at the base only; lateral sepals adnate, oblong or oblong-ovate, obtuse, obscurely papillose within and pubescent outside, navicular, about 14 mm. long and 7 mm. broad; petals narrowly lanceolate, acute, inside with transverse verrucose ribs, glabrous, about 7 mm. long and 1.5 mm. broad at the base; lip oblong-ovate, 3-lobed, fleshy, the disc with transverse verrucose calluses, about 5 mm. long and 2 mm. broad, or 4 mm. broad when lateral lobes are spread, lateral lobes small, obtuse, extending to below middle of lip, the mid-lobe obtuse; column narrowly winged, arcuate, about 5 mm. long, the column-foot flat, about 4 mm. long; anther ovate, pollinia 2.

NICARAGUA: epiphyte, Pistacho Peak near Babilonia Mine, Dept. Chontales, alt. 650 m., July 1962, *Heller 6620* (type in Chicago Natural History Museum, includes sketches made from living material).

The species appears, on first sight to belong to *Cryptophoranthus* but the dorsal sepal is free from the laterals, except in the young flowers connate briefly at the apex with the laterals. It is perhaps most closely allied to *Pleurothallis helleriana* L. Wms.

The description was drawn from living material, material in liquid and from dried specimens.

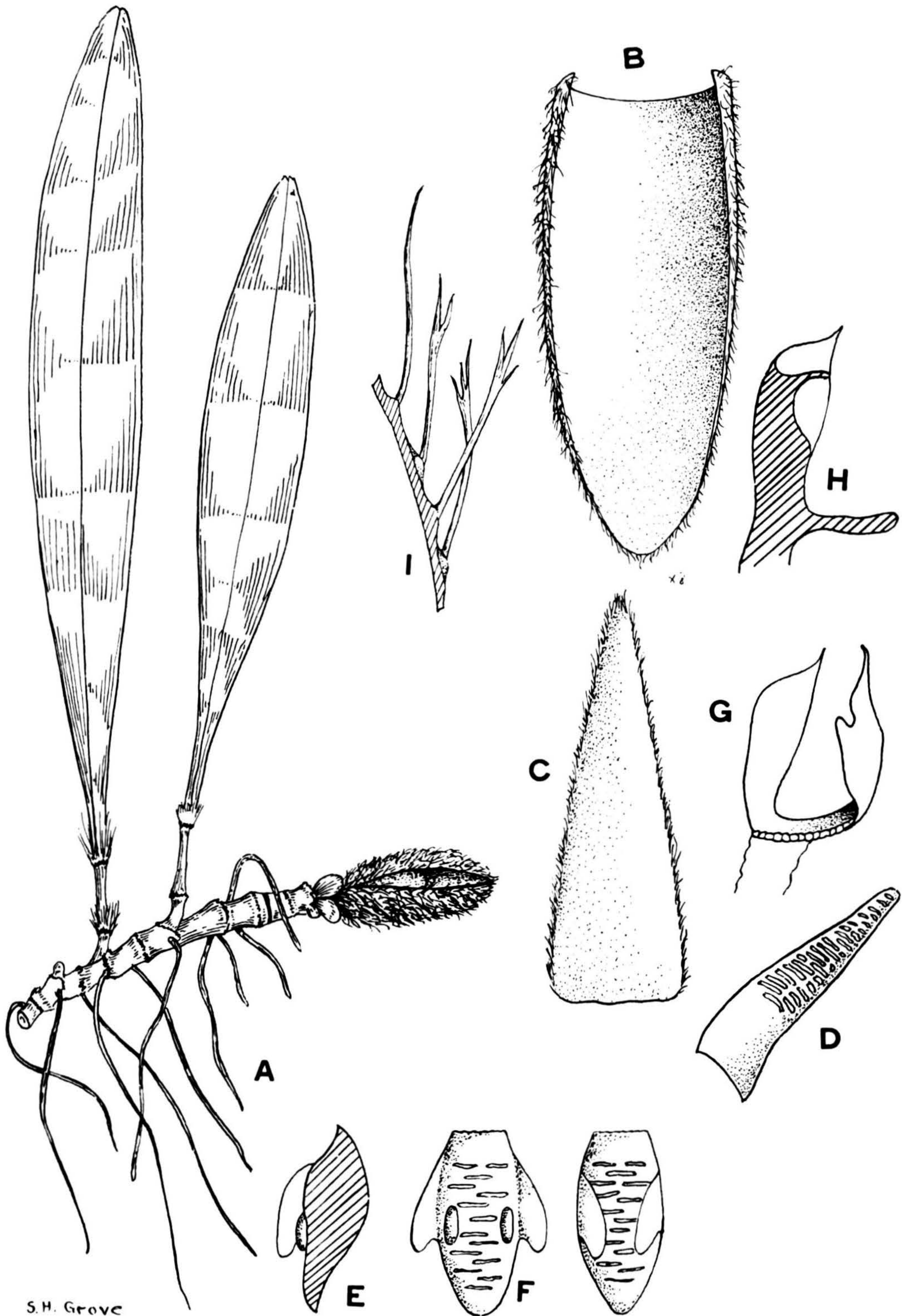


FIG. 8. *Pleurothallis lappiformis*. A, Habit;  $\times 1$ . B, Lateral sepals;  $\times 4$ . C, Dorsal sepal;  $\times 4$ . D, Petal;  $\times 4$ . E, Lip, longitudinal section;  $\times 4$ . F, Lip spread out (left) and in natural position;  $\times 4$ . G, Outline of column and lip in natural position;  $\times 4$ . H, Diagram in longitudinal section of column and foot;  $\times 4$ . I, Trichome from a sepal;  $\times 15$ . Illustration from the type and from Heller's diagnoses of fresh flowers.