

*Dresslerella pertusa* (Dressler) C. Luer, comb. nov.

*Neurothallis pertusa* Dressler, *Orquideologia* 5:76. 1970.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems terete, 2-4 cm long, concealed by 3-4 loose, imbricating, hispidulous sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf pendent, thick, coriaceous, dark green suffused with purple, especially beneath, oblong to elliptical, subacute to obtuse, the base sessile, rounded, the margins minutely ciliate, 4-10 X 2-3.5 cm. Inflorescence a single (occasionally 2) flower from the axil of the leaf; floral bract tubular, sparsely ciliate, about 3-5 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary pink, pubescent, 3 mm long; flower fleshy, maroon, covered with white pubescence, the sepals adnate except for the apical 1-2 mm; dorsal sepal oblong, narrowly obtuse, glabrous within, 10-14 X 3.5-5 mm spread; lateral sepals united into a concave, pyriform synsepal, 10-14 X 5-7 mm partially spread; petals glabrous, purple on translucent yellow, narrow and obtusely angled above the middle, the apex acute to acuminate, 6-7 X 0.5-1 mm; lip sagitate, yellow marked with purple, the apex obtuse, the lateral angles obtuse to rounded, the base prominently unguiculate, with a pair of small basal auricles, the claw with an uncinat callus, the blade with a marginal pair of low, thickened calli, 5-7 X 3-4 mm; column maroon, terete, 5 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *pertusus*, "having a hole or slit," in reference to the minute hole at the apex of the flower.

TYPE: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 12 Nov. 1967, R. L. Dressler 3152 (HOLOTYPE: US, ISOTYPE: MO, PMA).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 2 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 706, 981 (SEL);

Vegetatively this species, endemic in eastern Panama, is very similar to, but considerably larger than the other previously known species of the genus. A prostrate rosette of short-stemmed, thick, oblong leaves radiates from a cluster of roots which are often found growing on a perpendicular tree trunk. The heavy leaves grow more or less pendent; those that originate near the top of the rosette gradually curve downward to the side. The sheaths of the stems are minutely hispid, and the undersurface of the dark green, velvety leaves, held out of sight close to the substrate, is purplish. The margins are minutely ciliate.

Usually produced singly, the short-stemmed flowers lie upon the blade. The pear-shaped flowers are maroon or purple-black and blanketed by a minute, white pubescence. When in full bloom, only the very tip of the dorsal sepal lifts from the inflated, concave synsepal to create a tiny, more or less rounded aperture on top of the rounded apex of the flower. It must be some feat for a minute insect to enter and escape laden with pollinia. Within the cavity of the flower the petals are narrow but dilated and obtusely angled above the middle, and the hastate lip has a hook-shaped callus on its pronounced claw.

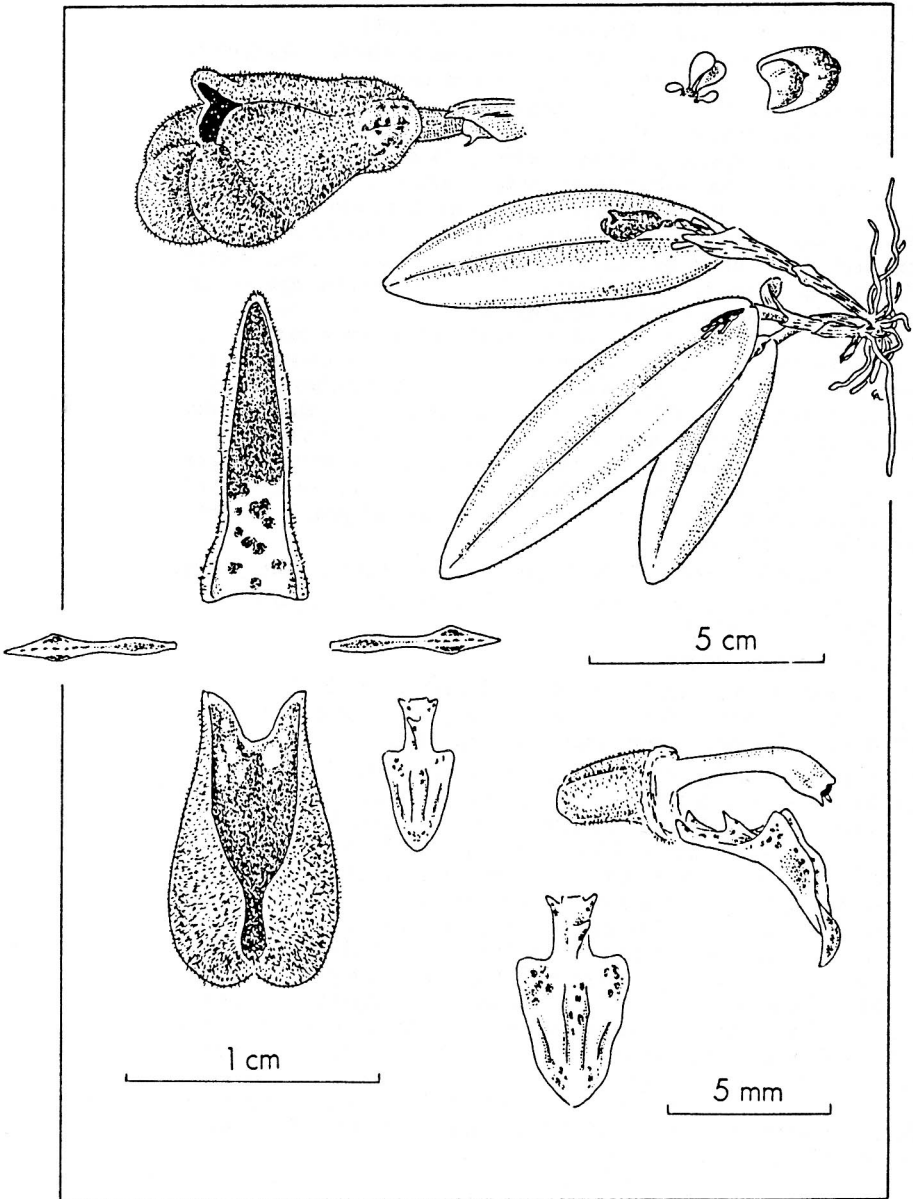


Figure 106. *DRESSLERELLA PERTUSA* (Dressler) C. A. Luer