

Pleurothallis ephelis C. A. Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis erectis gracilibus unifoliatis vaginis pubescentibus, foliis anguste oblongis acutis basi cuneatis sessilibus, floribus singularibus fasciculatis, sepalis cinnamomeis lentiginosis ovatis obtusis, petalis infra medium ovatis maculosis serrulatis, supra medium crassis anguste linearibus obtusis, labello rubro ovato trilobato, lobo antico ovato obtuso denticulato, lobis lateralibus late ovatis obliquis marginibus anticis erosis, disco canaliculato bilamellato, base columnae bicalloso.

Plant medium in size, caespitose, epiphytic; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 6-18 cm long, clothed by 5-6 reddish purple, tubular, hispid sheaths, monophyllous. Leaf linear-oblong, acute, tridenticulate, base cuneate, sessile, 5-9 cm \times 6-9 mm. Inflorescence fasciculate, few-, single-flowered, from bundles of old peduncles at the base of the leaf; peduncle about 2 mm long; floral bract with brown pubescence, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary brown, 1 mm long; sepals glabrous, pale pinkish brown, flecked lightly with brown; the margins more or less revolute; dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, 5 \times 2 mm; lateral sepals ovate, slightly oblique, subacute, 4 \times 2 mm, united basally and forming a mentum with the column-foot; petals 6 mm long, ovate below the middle and 3 mm wide, translucent yellow-green with reddish spots and irregular margins, abruptly contracted into a narrow, linear, thickened, yellow portion above the middle, obtuse, 3 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; lip rose-red, ovate, 3-lobed, 3 \times 2.5 mm spread out, anterior lobe ovate, obtuse, denticulate, lateral lobes broadly ovate, oblique, arose along the front margins, base shortly unguiculate, with a pair of rounded teeth on the base of the disc, becoming a pair of red lamellae which extend onto the apical lobe, sharply channeled between; column rose, winged, apex denticulate, 2.5 mm long, foot 1.5 cm long, with a pair of sticky hemispherical callosities.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *ephelis*, "freckle," in reference to the sepals and petals which are lightly flecked with brown and red.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PASTAZA: epiphytic, 20 km east of Puyo, alt. 500 m, 28 July 1975, C. A. Luer, G. M. Luer, & S. Wilhelm 479 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Pleurothallis ephelis is probably endemic in the rain forests at low elevations of the eastern slopes of the Andes of Ecuador. It may be identified by the coarsely pubescent sheaths of the stems, the small, narrow leaf, and the few, fasciculate, glabrous, pale pinkish brown flowers flecked with brown. The sepals are not acuminate, but the apical halves of the petals are long and narrow. The red, three-lobed lip is obtuse and denticulate with a central pair of lamellae separated by a central channel. The short foot of the column is provided with a pair of sticky, rounded glands.

This species is allied to several others characterized by hirsute, cauline sheaths. *Pleurothallis furfuracea* Lehm. & Krzl. is a larger plant with pubescent, acuminate sepals. *Pleurothallis hirsuticaulis* Ames & Schweinf. has larger, purple-red flowers with a fimbriate-margined lip.

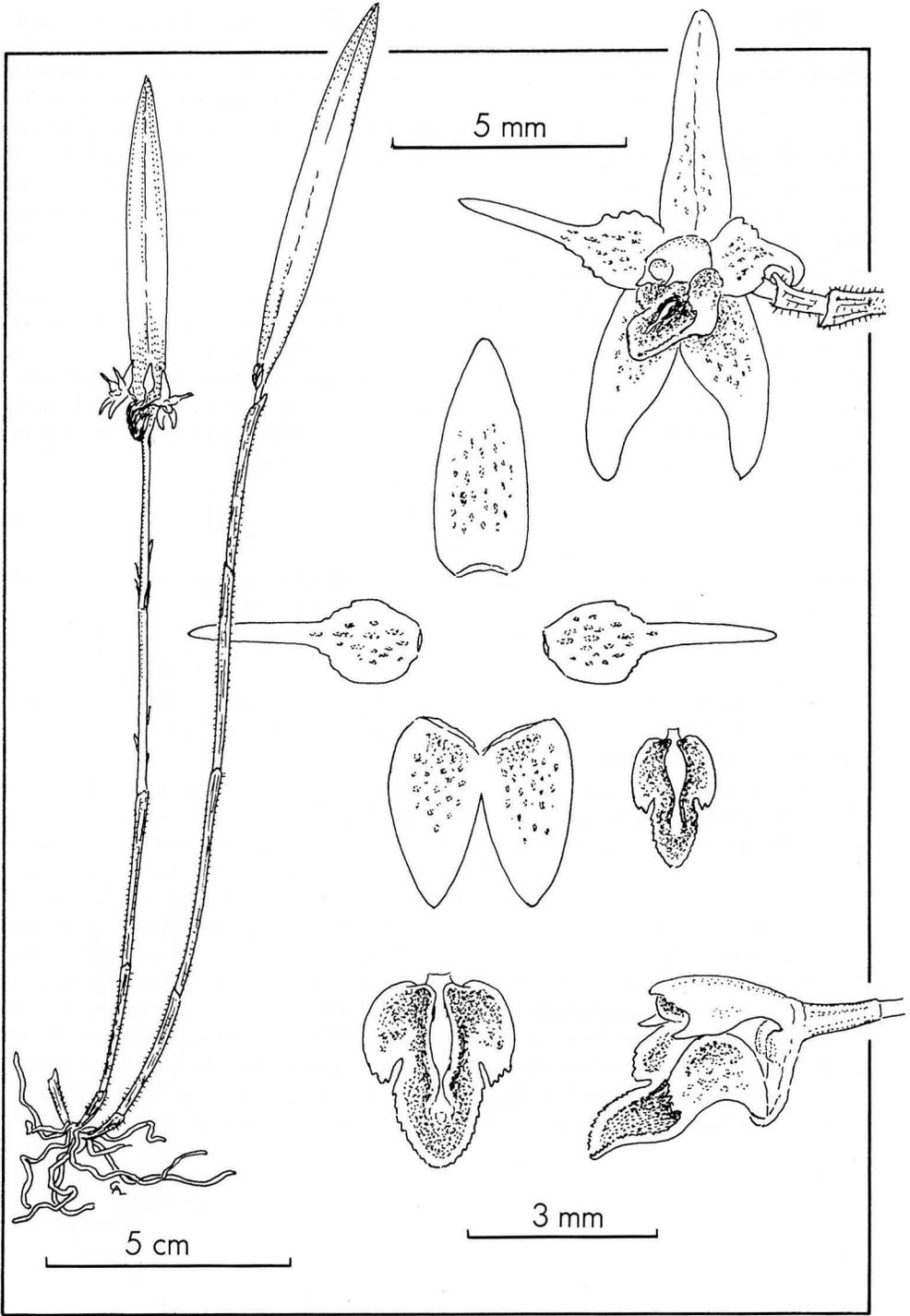


Figure 99. *PLEUROTHALLIS EPHELIS* C. A. Luer