

***Pleurothallis sarcodactylae* C. A. Luer, sp. nov.**

Herba mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis vaginibus pubescentibus, foliis anguste ovatis acutis basi cuneatis breviter petiolatis, inflorescentia pauciflora fasciculata, floribus luteolis carnosis pubescentibus, sepalo dorsali oblongo apice rotundato, sepalis lateralibus ellipticis obliquis obtusis, petalis subpanduriformibus infra medium ovatis supra medium sulphureis carnosis subteretibus obtusis, labello brevissimo oblongo apice rotundato eroso, lobis lateribus infra medium parvis obtusis erosis, columna denticulata labello majore.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose to shortly creeping, roots filiform, fasciculate. Secondary stems erect, slender, terete, 3-11 cm long, with 5-6 fugacious sheaths, the lower ones pubescent, unifoliolate. Leaf coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, tridenticulate, base cuneate, shortly petiolate, 8-12 (including the petiole up to 1 cm long)  $\times$  2-3 cm. Inflorescence a few-, single-flowered fascicle from the apex of the stem; spathe brown, pubescent, 2 mm long; floral bract green, pubescent, 2 mm long; pedicel finely pubescent, 3 mm long; ovary pubescent, 1 mm long; flowers fleshy, pale yellow-green, not wide-spreading; dorsal sepal oblong, obtuse to rounded, 7  $\times$  3.5 mm, 5-veined, pubescent externally; lateral sepals free to near the base where they form a shallow mentum, elliptical, oblique, obtuse, 6-7  $\times$  3 mm, 2-veined, pubescent externally; petals obscurely pandurate, 6  $\times$  2 mm, ovate below the middle and 3-veined, above the middle yellow, fleshy, subterete, obtuse to rounded, with a few sparse hairs; lip white with a few purple spots, very small, oblong, 2  $\times$  1 mm spread out, apex obtuse to rounded, erose, with a small pair of erect, broadly triangular, obtuse, erose, lateral lobes just below the middle, the base truncate, obscurely auricled and shortly unguiculate, disc with a pair of denticulate lamellae near the middle; column stout, larger than the lip, 2  $\times$  1.5 mm, clinandrium denticulate, the foot concave.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *sarx*, *sarkos*, "flesh," and *dactylos*, "finger," hence "fleshy fingers," an allusion to the appearance of the flowers.

TYPE: ECUADOR: NAPO: epiphytic 15 km west of Tena, alt. 600 m, 26 July 1975, C. A. Luer, G. M. Luer, & S. Wilhelm 621 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), flowered in cult. 3 Dec. 1975.

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This species is closely related to the larger *Pleurothallis affinis* Lindl. from which it may be distinguished by its smaller habit and fewer flowers with shorter, thicker, and wider floral parts. The incurved, thick, terete petals are glossy and glabrous save for a rare hair along the margin. The flowers do not open completely, all five segments curving forward as the five fingers of a hand. A flowering plant superficially resembles an *Octomeria*.

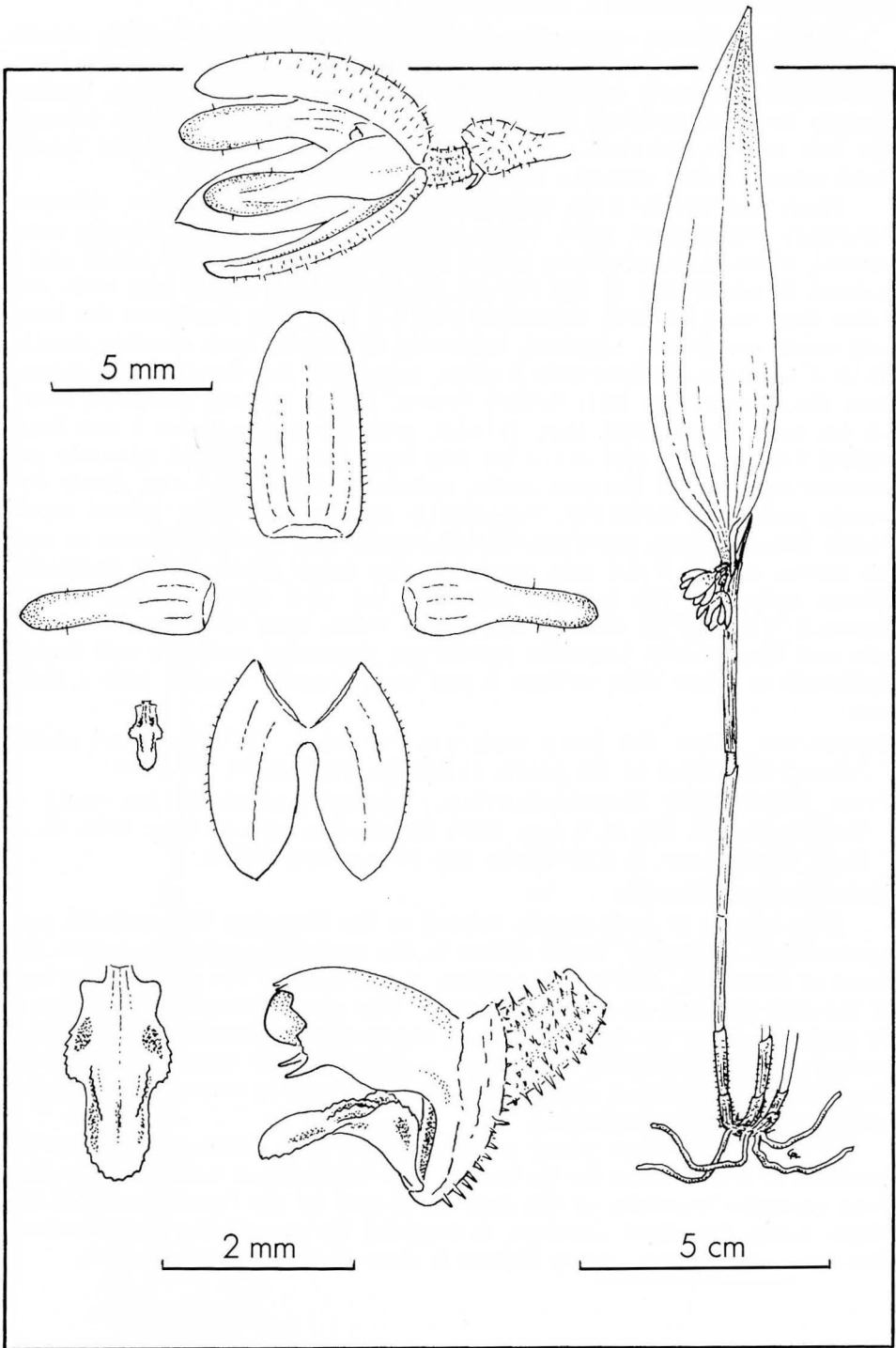


Figure 102. *PLEUROTHALLIS SARCODACTYLAE* C. A. Luer