

***Pleurothallis speciosa* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta grandis epiphytica breviter repens, caulibus secundariis teretibus purpureis vaginis spiculatis unifoliatis, foliis erectis rigidis anguste ovatis acutis breviter petiolatis, inflorescentia fasciculatis floribus singularibus flavis purpureo vittatis, petalis ovato-acuminatis sepalis ovatis longioribus, labello crasso oblongo nondenticulato.

Plant large, epiphytic, shortly repent to caespitose; roots slender brown, fibrous. Secondary stems terete, stout, purple, 11-30 cm long, clothed by 4-8 spiculate sheaths, shed on older stems, unifoliate. Leaf erect, thick, rigid, coriaceous, dark green suffused with purple, narrowly ovate, acute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate, short-petiolate, 8-16 cm long, 2-3.3 cm wide. Inflorescence fasciculate, the flowers produced singly from a dense mass of nodes and old sheaths at the base of the leaf-petiole; peduncle 5-6 mm long; floral bract tubular, pubescent, 2-4 mm long; pedicel sparsely short-pubescent, 3.5 mm long; ovary glandular pubescent, 2.5 mm long; flowers relatively large, spreading, pale yellow with red-purple stripes; sepals ovate, slightly acuminate, acute, with a sparse red pubescence above the middle, glabrous within, the dorsal sepal 9.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, the lateral sepals oblique, united only at the base, each 9 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 4-veined; petals ovate, acuminate and contracted above the middle, the apex thickened, acute, 10 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, 3-veined; lip thick, oblong, slightly constricted just above the middle, the apex convex, abruptly acuminate, the base subtruncate, the disc with smooth, rounded, longitudinal, marginal calli below the middle, yellow mottled with purple, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide; column stout, 3 mm long, with a concave foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *speciosus*, "splendid," in reference to the showy flowers.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in a valley of cloud forest above Guadalupe, alt. ca. 2000 m, 13 Sept. 1976, *C. Luer & H. Butcher 1371* (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 123-76-18, flowered in cult. 5 Feb. 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama and ?Venezuela.

The long, purple stems of this large, handsome species are concealed by a series of coarsely pubescent sheaths until the latter are eventually shed. The tough, erect, lance-shaped blade is folded at the base into a short petiole, and from a cluster of nodes in the fold the flowers are produced on single peduncles. The sepals and petals are translucent yellow and conspicuously striped with red-purple. The broad, acuminate petals are longer than the sepals. *Pleurothallis speciosa* is apparently very closely allied to the Colombian *P. lancipetala* (Karst.) Schltr. Both possess relatively large, striped flowers, but the latter species is distinguished by a pair of lateral teeth on the lip. The lip of the presently described species is thick with longitudinally rounded margins.

This species appears to be illustrated in Foldats, *Flora Venez. Orch.* 2:270, 1970, as *P. exasperata* Lindl.

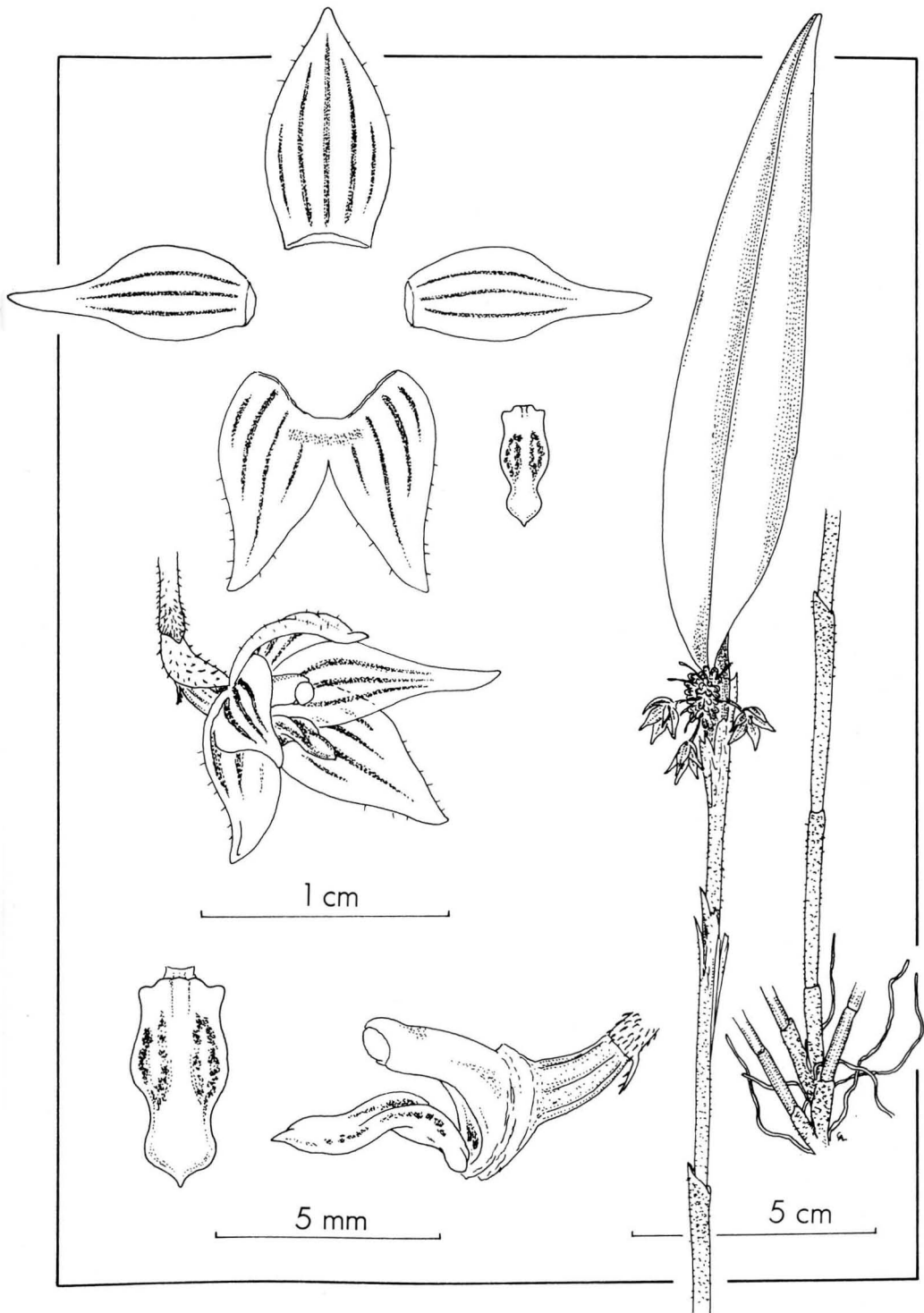


Figure 296. *PLEUROTHALLIS SPECIOSA* Luer