

Platystele hampshireae Luer, sp. nov.

Plate 92.

Ety.: Named in honor of Rachel J. Hampshire, co-collector of this species.

Species haec *P. oxyglossae* (Schltr.) Garay affinis, sed sepalis glabris, petalis anguste attenuatis ciliatis et labello suborbiculari apice rotundo abrupte brevicaudato differt.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fleshy, thicker than the ramicauls. Ramicauls erect, slender, 1-1.5 mm long, enclosed by a thin, loose, tubular sheath. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subpetiolate, subacute to obtuse, apiculate, 7-10 mm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, loose, distichous, flexuous, successively few-flowered raceme, up to 2.5 cm long, borne by a capillary peduncle 1-2 cm long, emerging laterally from the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, 0.5 mm long; pedicels 2.5-3.5 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; **sepals** pale translucent greenish, membranous, glabrous, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, acute, attenuate, 3 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, 1-veined, the lateral sepals free, ovate, concave, oblique, acute, acuminate above the middle, 2.75 mm long, 1 mm wide expanded, 1-veined; **petals** translucent pale green, membranous, ciliate, narrowly ovate, acute, attenuate, 2.25 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; **lip** crimson, glabrous (microscopically cellular), suborbicular, 1 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the disc slightly longitudinally concave from a glenion at the base, featureless, the apex rounded, abruptly contracted into an apiculum 0.25 mm long, the base truncate, flattened on the end, firmly hinged to the rudimentary column-foot; **column** broadly cucullate, 0.5 mm long and broad, the stigma bilobed, the foot rudimentary.

PANAMA: **Chiriquí**: wet forest between Fortuna Lake and Chiriquí Grande, 1 km south of the continental divide, alt. 1200 m, 10 Mar. 1985, *Rachel J. Hampshire & Caroline Whitefoord 414* (Holotype: BM), C. Luer illustr. 18606.

This little species is distinguished from its numerous allies by the very small, caespitose habit; a lax, flexuous, few-flowered raceme about thrice longer than the leaves; attenuate, glabrous sepals; attenuate, ciliate petals; and a suborbicular lip with the rounded apex minutely short-caudate.

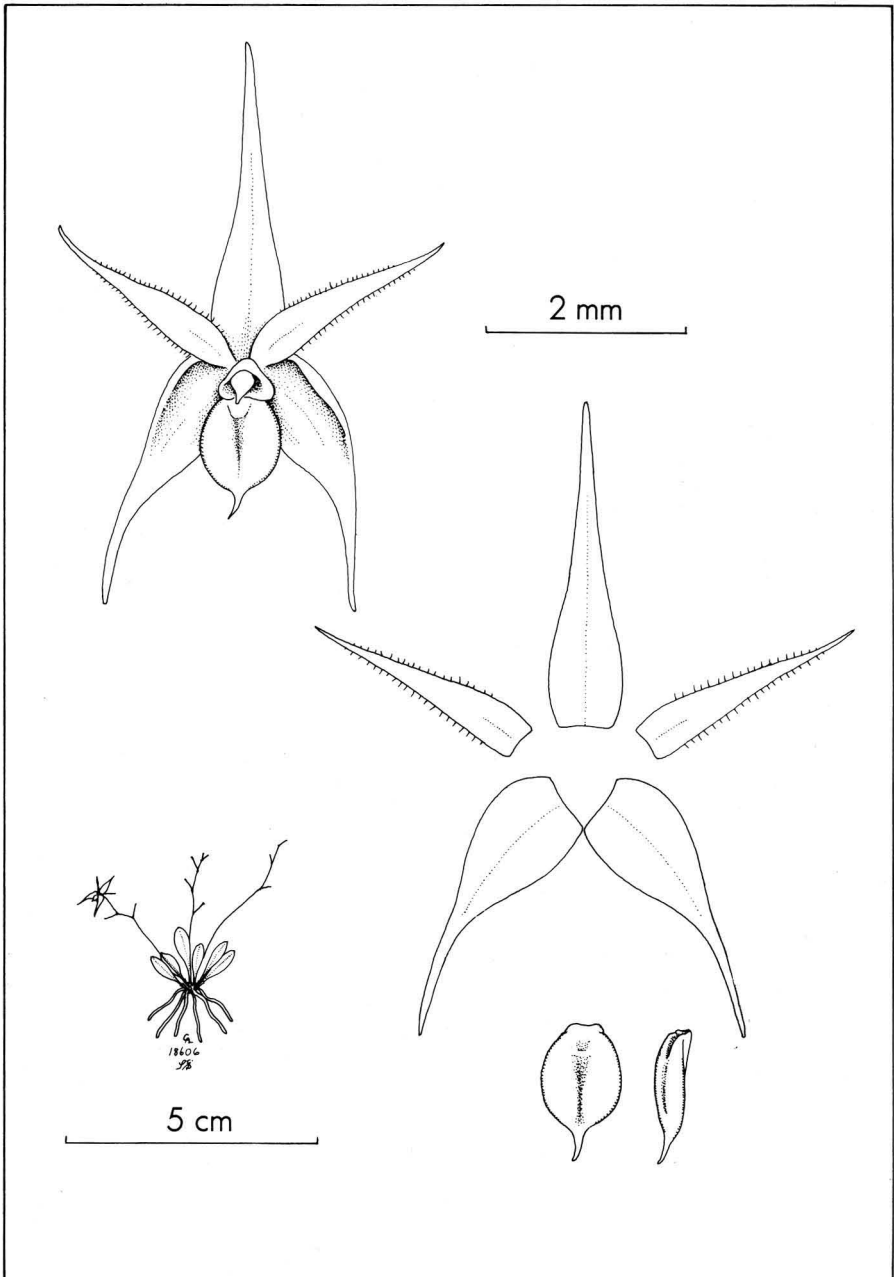


Plate 92. *Platystele hampshireae* Luer