

**Platystele ingramii** Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.

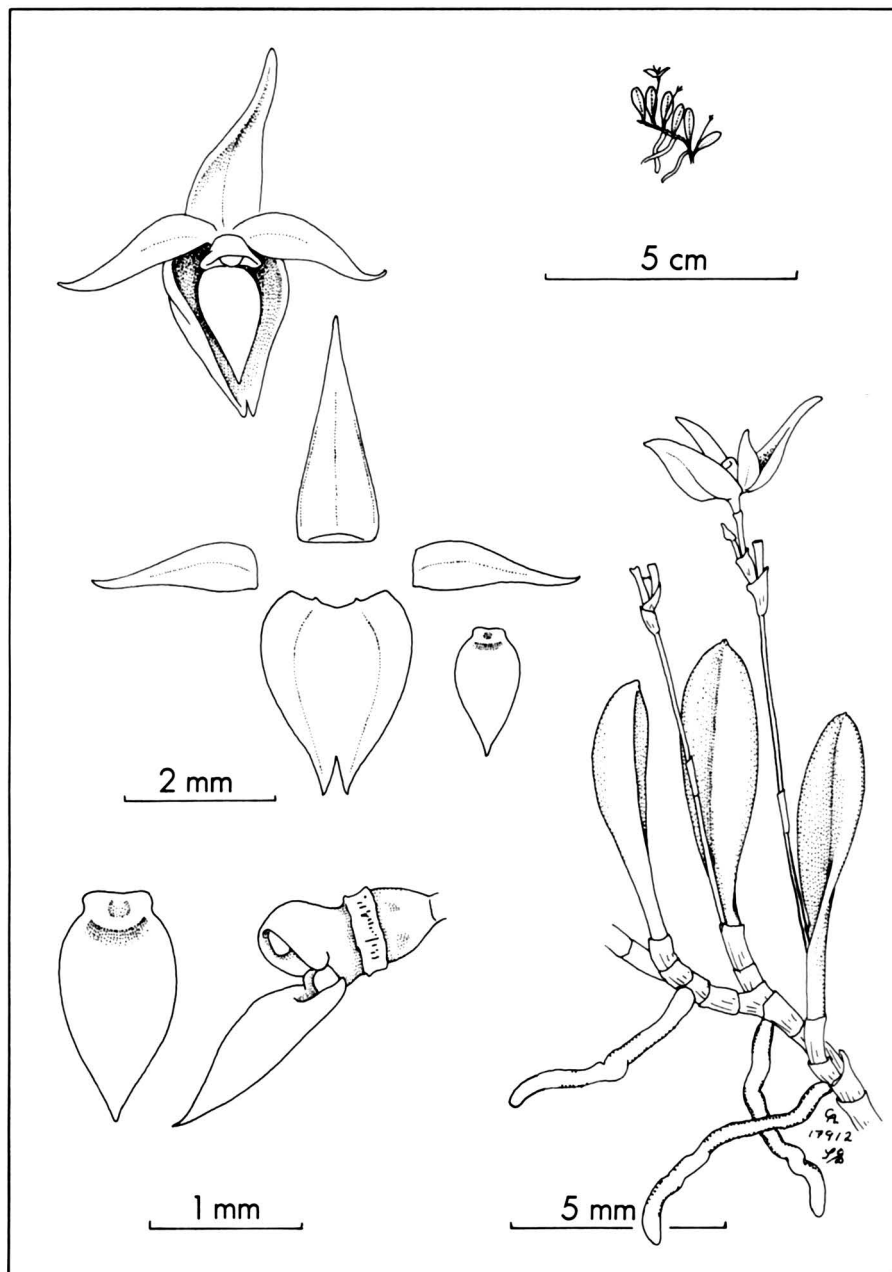
Éty.: Named in honor of Stephen Ingram, co-collector of this species.

Species haec *P. minimiflorae* (Schltr.) Garay similis, sed flore majore, sepalis lateralibus circa apicem in synsepalum concavum connatis, petalis acuminatis et labello majore acuto differt,

**Plant** very small, epiphytic, repent, the rhizomes 1.5-2 mm long between ramicauls; roots solitary at nodes, comparatively thick and fleshy. Ramicauls erect, stout, 1-1.5 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical-obovate, obtuse, 6-7 mm long, 2.5-3 mm wide, cuneate below into the subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme, ca. 1 mm long, borne by a slender, erect peduncle 7-8 mm long, emerging laterally from the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, oblique, acute, 0.5 mm long; pedicels 0.5 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; **sepals** translucent tan, glabrous, the dorsal sepal broadly triangular-ovate, concave, with the apex narrowly acute, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined, the lateral sepals connate to near the acutely bifid apex into ovoid, concave synsepal, 2.5 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded; **petals** pale tan, membranous, ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 2 mm long, 0.6 mm wide; **lip** purple, thick, ovate, acute, 1.6 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the base thickened with a transverse callus, slightly depressed centrally, hinged to the rudimentary column-foot; **column** inflated, cucullate, 0.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the foot rudimentary.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Sucumbíos: trees along road to La Bonita, alt. 2100 m, 13 Mar. 1996, *S. Dalström, S. Ingram & K. Ferrell-Ingram 2113* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17912.

Vegetatively this tiny species is indistinguishable from the Central American *Platystele minimiflora*. The flowers of *P. ingramii* are more than twice larger with acute floral parts. Most distinguishing is the concave synsepal formed by the lateral sepals connate to near their apices, so far unique in the genus. The lateral sepals of only a few species are connate to near the middle. The fleshy lip is ovate and acute.

Plate 91. *Platystele ingramii* Luer & Dalström