

Pleurothallis avirostris Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 5.

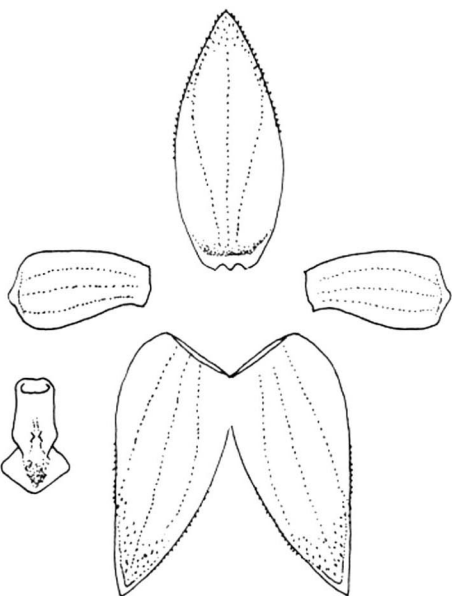
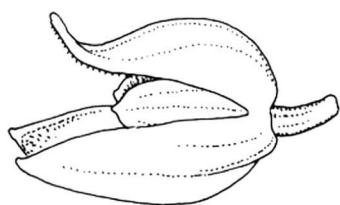
Ety.: From the Latin *avirostris*, "bird-beaked," in allusion to the appearance of the lip.

Species haec *P. jamesonii* Lindl. affinis, sed labello trilobo, lobo antico convexo calloso transverse rhombiformi angulis obtusis, lobis lateralibus erectis obtusis crassissimis utrinque callosis distinguitur.

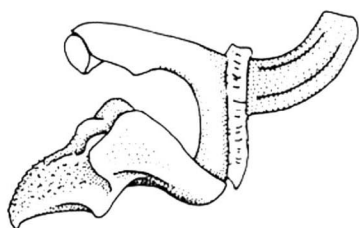
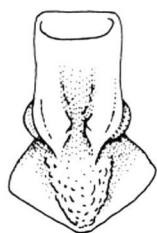
Plant medium in size, appears to have been growing terrestrially, caespitose; roots numerous, slender. Ramicauls fasciculate, stout, erect, 8-13 cm long, enclosed by 3-4 tubular, imbricating sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, the blade 8-11 cm long, 2.5-3.5 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** a single, secund, densely and simultaneously many-flowered raceme, up to 23 cm long including the peduncle 12 cm long, subtended by a spathe 2.5 cm long, from an annulus 2-3 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts 4-5 mm long, enclosing pedicel and ovary; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** light yellow, subcarinate, minutely pubescent above the middle, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, 8.5 mm long, 4 mm wide unexpanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 9 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** translucent, suffused with pink, elliptical-obovate, 4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex rounded, subapiculate; **lip** yellow, suffused with red, fleshy, trilobed, 3.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the middle lobe transversely rhombic, convex, obtuse, the lateral lobes near the middle, erect, obtuse, thick with a rounded callus on both the external and internal surfaces, and a small conical callus on the inner lower portion, the lobes cannot be spread, almost meeting in the midline, the disc shallowly concave between the callous lobes, the base with a transverse cavity articulated with the end of the column-foot; **column** stout, 2.5 mm long, the foot 1.5 mm long with the tip free, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

ECUADOR: **Bolivar**: Chimborazo, La Palma, alt. 3600 m, Nov. 1983, *A. Hirtz 1344* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14933.

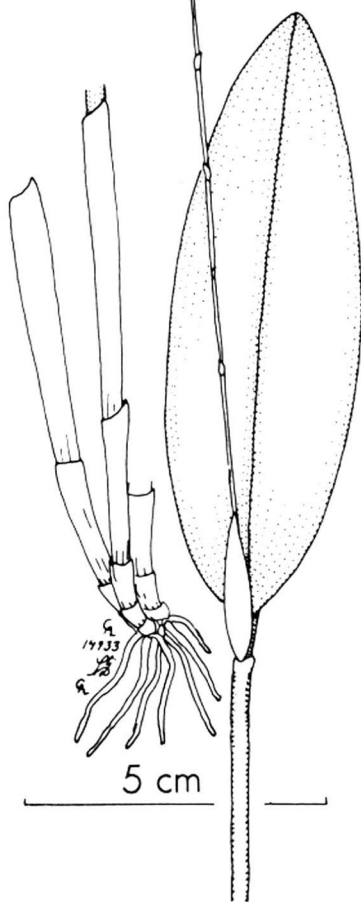
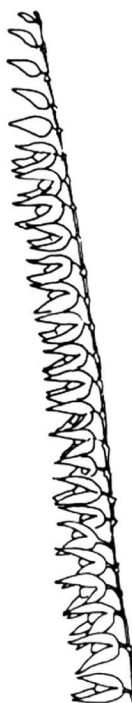
This species from a very high altitude on Mt. Chimborazo is closely related to *P. jamesonii* from lower altitudes. Except for the lip, it is similar vegetatively and florally. Although basically similar, the lip of *P. avirostris* is distinguished by the transversely rhombic anterior lobe that is broader than the lower portion occupied by the erect lateral lobes. The central portion of the anterior lobe is minutely verrucose. The erect lateral lobes are very thickened, with rounded calli on both surfaces and an additional, small, conical callus on each side near the base within. The lobes cannot be spread without fracturing the lip.



1 cm



5 mm



5 cm