

2. **PLEUROTHALLIS BICOCHLEARIS** Luer, sp. nov.

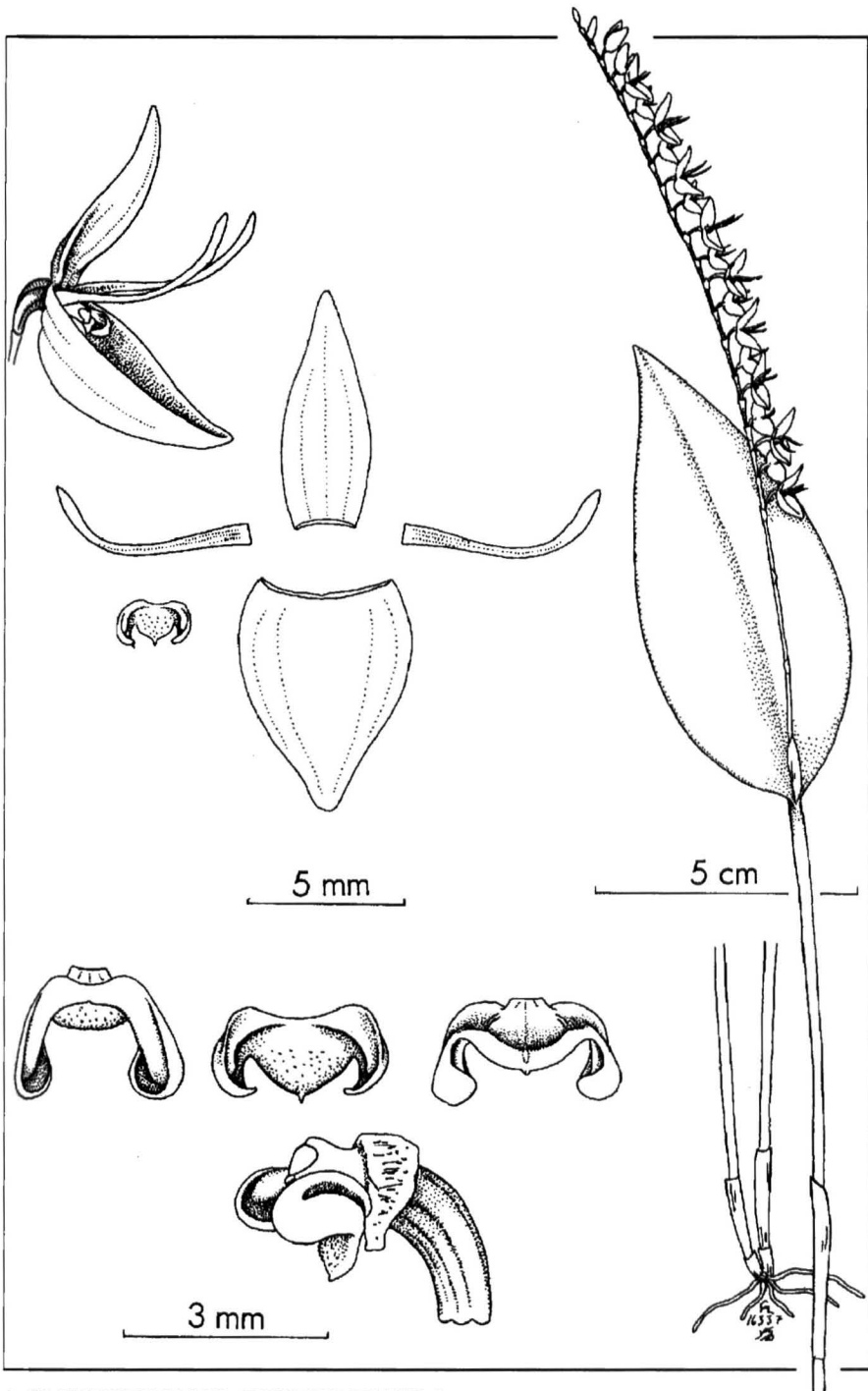
Species haec *P. antenniferae* Lindl. similis, sed habitu caespitoso, ramicauli compresso, petalis subclavatis, labelli lobis lateralibus cochlearibus differt.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Chocó: Munic. of San José del Palmar, Cerro del Torrá, between heliport and the mesa below the crest, alt. 2000-2500 m, 10 Aug. 1988, *P. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R. T. González, J. E. Ramos, L. H. Ramos & A. Henao 4282* (Holotype: CUVC; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16337; same area, above the heliport, alt. 1900 m, 7-8 Jan. 1984, *P. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, A. Duque & H. Bayona 1613, 1628* (CUVC).

ETIMOLOGÍA: Del latín *bicochlearis* (con dos conchas), en alusión al labelo.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *bicochlearis*, "with two shells," referring to the labellum.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, compressed above, 10-25 cm long, with a tubular sheath from near the middle, and 2-3 others at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, acute, 7-13 cm long, 2.5-5 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate to rounded, sessile. **Inflorescence** 1-2 erect, congested, many-flowered racemes, 15-20 cm long including the peduncle 2-5 cm long, subtended by a spathe 1-1.5 cm long at the base of the leaf; floral bracts tubular, 4 mm long; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** translucent



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yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovoid, deeply concave, subacute synsepal, 7 mm long, 5 mm wide unexpanded, 2 mm deep, 6-veined; **petals** narrowly linear, slightly thickened toward the subacute apex, 7 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** trilobed, 1 mm long, 2.5 mm wide across the lateral lobes, with the middle lobe broadly rounded, with the lateral lobes incurved, broadly rounded, concave, the base truncate, abruptly reflexed, attached to the base of the column; **column** terete, 0.5 mm long, footless, the anther and the stigma apical.

La especie parece ser endémica del Cerro del Torrá, en la Cordillera Occidental. Tiene engañoso parecido con *P. antennifera*, especie común, pero las plantas carecen de rizoma visible entre los ramicaules y son densamente cespitosas. Los ramicaules se comprimen arriba del centro, acentuándose fuertemente la compresión hacia la hoja. Las flores son parecidas, con pétalos delgados similares, semiteretes, pero en *P. bicochlearis* hay un ligero engrosamiento de los pétalos hacia el ápice; y los lóbulos laterales del labelo son mucho más grandes y cóncavos, como los que se ven en algunos especímenes de *P. penduliflora*.

This species, apparently endemic on the Cerro del Torrá in the Western Cordillera, is deceptively similar to the frequent *P. antennifera*. Instead of a distinct rhizome between ramicauls, the plants are densely caespitose. The ramicauls become compressed above the middle, sharply so as the leaf is approached. The flowers are similar, with similar, slender, semiterete petals, but in *bicochlearis*, the petals become slightly thickened toward the tip. The lateral lobes of the lip are much larger and concave, as seen in some specimens of *P. penduliflora*.