

***Pleurothallis cleistogama* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *cleistogamus*, "cleistogamous," fertilized with a closed flower.

Species haec *P. ruscifoliae* (Jacq.) R.Br. affinis, sed flores minoribus incrassatis cleistogamis, petalis latioribus triangularibusque et labello ad medium angulato differt.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 7-35 cm long, with a tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, more or less slightly acuminate, 6-17 cm long, 1-4 cm wide, the base acuminate into a distinct petiole ca. 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of a few or several, simultaneous, single flowers (infrequently 2-flowered), from a spathe ca. 7 mm long at the base of the petiole; peduncles 1-3 mm long; floral bracts thin, 2-3 mm long; pedicels 4-5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** pale yellow-green, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, concave below the middle, 4-8 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a narrowly ovate, acute synsepal, 4-8 mm long, 2-2.5 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** yellow-green, narrowly ovate to narrowly linear, acute, 2.5-6 mm long, 0.5-1 mm wide, faintly 3-veined; **lip** light green, ovate, acute to subacute, 1-1.5 mm long, 1-1.25 mm wide, with the disc shallowly channeled between semierect sides, sometimes acutely flexed, the base broadly truncate, concave on the end, hinged to the convex tip of the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 1.75 mm long, the foot thick, the anther, rostellum and stigma apical.

PANAMA: **Chiriquí**: Bajo Grande, above Cerro Punta, alt. 2400 m, 13 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Dressler & K. Dressler 10527 (Holotype: MO).

This taxon is little more than a cleistogamous form of the ubiquitous *P. ruscifolia*, but it differs from the latter in the following: the flowers are smaller with thickened sepals that are proportionately wider; thick, narrowly triangular petals that are wider; and an oblong, acute lip with acutely angled margins above the middle. The base is distinctly concave and articulated with a bulbous tip of the column-foot.

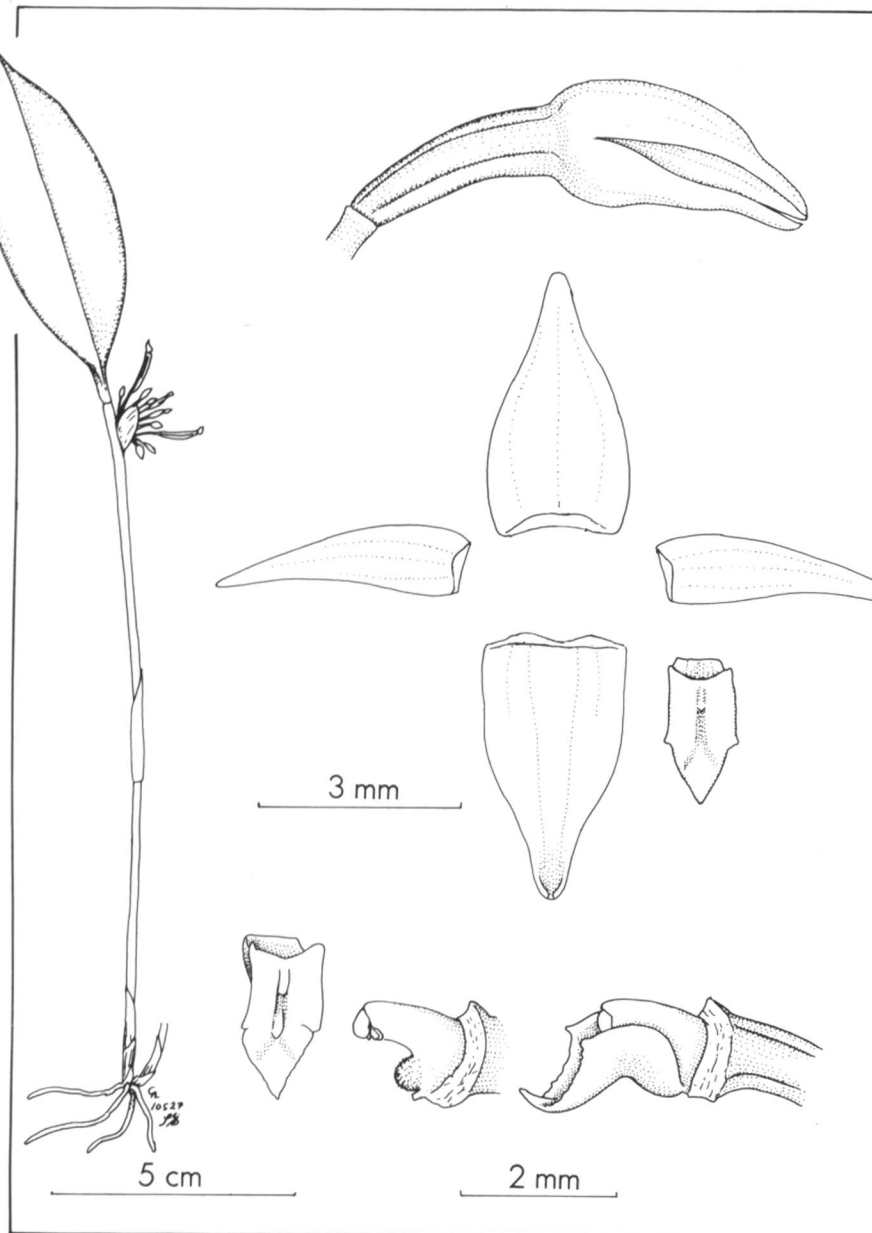


Fig. 55. *Pleurothallis cleistogama*