

Pleurothallis compressa Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: Turrialba, without further collection data, flowered in cultivation at the Lankester Botanical Garden, Cartago, 7 Mar. 1995, C. Luer 17380 (Holotype: CR: Isotype: MO). Fig. 15.

Inter species sectionis *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae* planta mediocris caespitosa, ramicaulibus argute compressis foliis decurrentibus, foliis cordatis acutis concavis deflexis, spatha suberecta, flore parvo, lateribus sepalis reflexis, petalis subfalcatis acutis reflexis, labello carnoso late triangulari cum callo pyramidalis distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, sharply compressed above, decurrent within the leaf for 1–1.5 cm, 20–25 cm long, with a tubular sheath on the lower third and 2 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** deflexed when mature, coriaceous, concave,

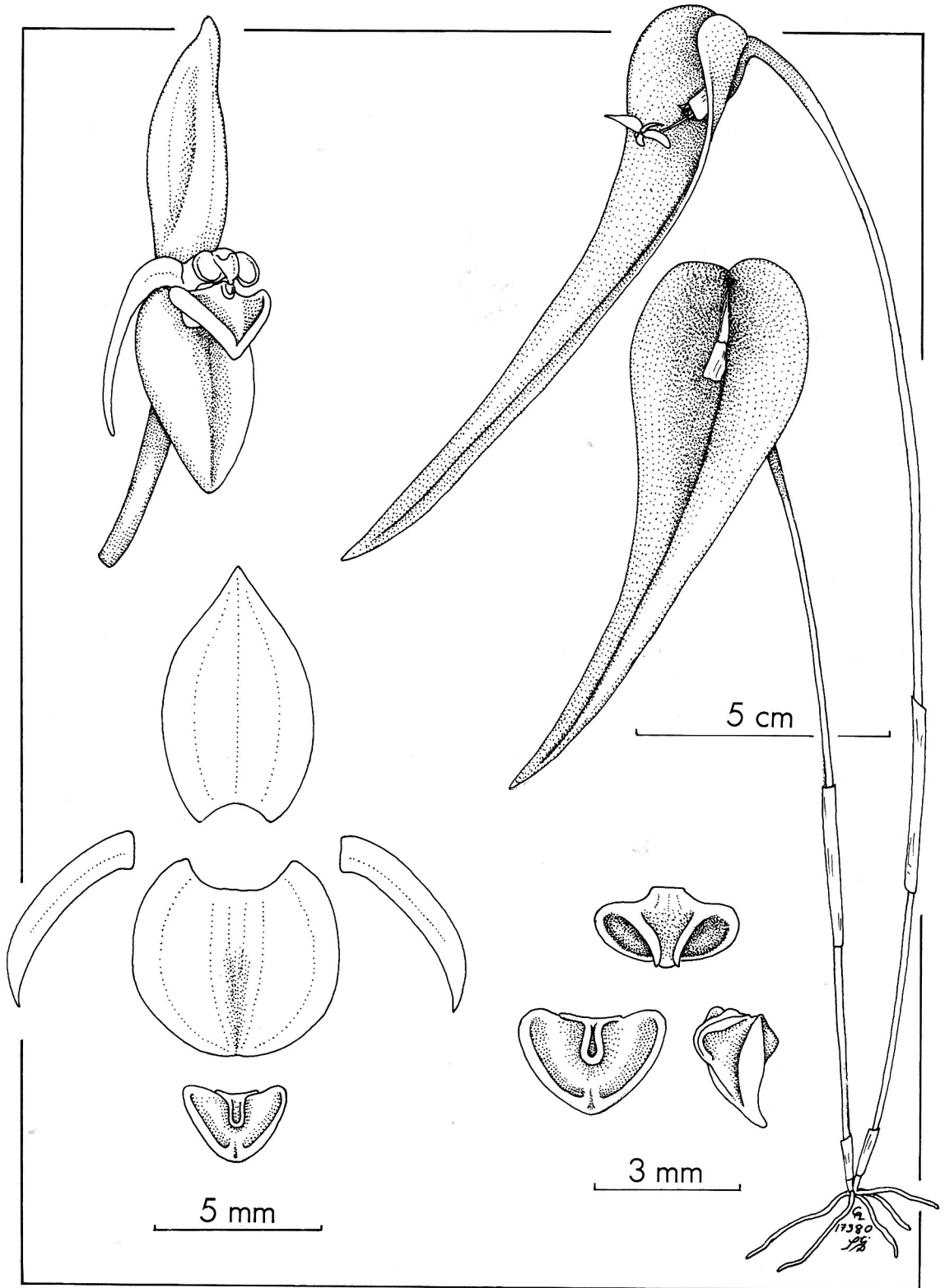


Fig. 15. *Pleurothallis compressa*

ovate, acuminate above the middle, acute, 11–15 cm long, 3–4 cm wide above the base, 1.5 mm wide above the middle, the base shallowly cordate. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive single flowers, subtended by a broad, suberect spathe 10–12 mm long; peduncle 1–2 mm long, thick, deep within the spathe; pedicels 9–10 mm long, mostly concealed within the sheath; floral bracts tubular, ca. 5 mm long; ovary 9–10 mm long; **sepals** light brown, glabrous, the dorsal sepal elliptical-ovate, subacute, with the sides reflexed, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a suborbicular synsepal, longitudinally concave centrally with the sides reflexed, 6.5 mm long, 7 mm wide expanded, 6-veined; **petals** light brown, reflexed, narrowly oblong-subfalcate, acute, entire, 6.5 mm long, 1–1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** brown, thick, transversely triangular, obtuse, 2.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, with the margins thickened, concave within the margins, the disc with a prominent, pyramidal glenion, flat and microscopically pubescent on top, with a glenion anteriorly, the base truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** white, stout, 1.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the foot thick, pubescent, with the anther, rostellum and stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *compressus*, “compressed,” referring to the laterally compressed ramicaul.

This species differs from all the other members of section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae* by the sharply compressed ramicauls upon which the deflexed leaf is decurrent for at least one centimeter. Vegetatively it is similar to *P. peculiaris* of neighboring Panama. The small, brown flowers protrude from the spathe and face downward. The sides of the dorsal sepal and the synsepal, as well as the subfalcate petals, are reflexed. The pyramidal callus of the triangular lip fits beneath the column with the glenion and viscidium in apposition.