

**Pleurothallis condorensis** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for the Cordillera del Condor where the species was discovered.

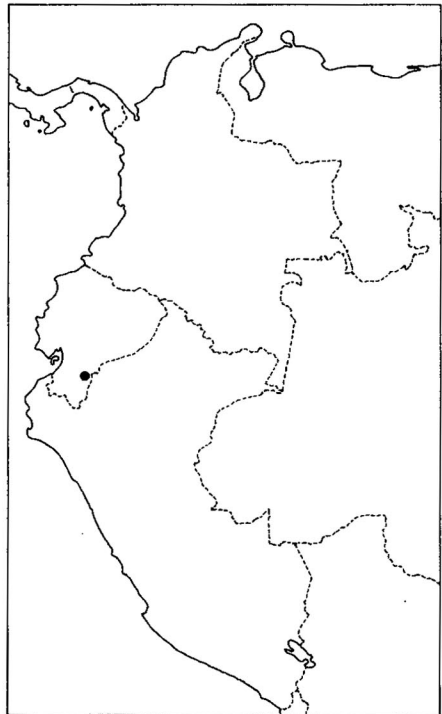
Inter species subgeneris *Ancipitiae* Luer species haec labello trilobato, lobo antico crasso dilatato truncato, lobis lateralibus erectis oblongis obtusis et disco carinato differt.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, shortly repent or loosely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect to suberect, sharply ancipitous above the middle, 5-15 cm long, with a bract below the middle and 2-3 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** rigid, coriaceous, more or less spreading, ovate, acute, 3.5-5.5 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide, the base narrowly cordate to obtuse, decurrent on the ramicaul for 3-7 mm. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of solitary, successive flowers borne from a reclining spathe 7-8 mm long at the base of the leaf; peduncle filiform, reclining, 10-15 mm long; floral bract 6 mm long; pedicel ascending, 25-35 mm long; ovary pitted, 4 mm long; **sepals** and petals white, spotted and suffused with purple-brown below the middle, the dorsal sepal ovate, narrowly obtuse, concave below the middle, 12.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide unexpanded, the lateral sepals completely connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, 11.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide unexpanded; **petals** narrowly linear, acute, 10 mm long, 1 mm wide, thickened with the margins lightly erose above the middle; **lip** yellow-white, dotted and suffused with purple below the middle, 3-lobed, 2.5 mm long, the middle lobe thickened, flabellate, truncate, the lateral lobes erect, oblong, obtuse, 1.25 mm long, 3.5 mm wide across the lobes expanded, the disc with a longitudinal carina between the lobes, the base thickened and rounded, hinged to the column-foot beneath the swollen apex; **column** white, dotted and suffused with purple, semiterete, 2 mm long, the anther subapical, exposed, the foot thick, 1.5 mm long with the apex of the ovary.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: epiphytic in cloud forest, Cordillera del Condor, east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1450 m, 4 Feb. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 12614 (Holotype: MO).

This species was first discovered on the trunk of a fallen tree beside a new road into the Cordillera del Condor by Alexander Hirtz. Only one large plant in full flower was found, although numerous other orchids were present. Other plants of this species were found on subsequent trips into the Condor. A flower is pictured on the cover of *Das Geheimnis der Orchideen*, Hamburg, 1988.

The lip is three-lobed with the middle lobe broadly truncate and the lateral lobes oblong and erect. Its closest relative is *P. solium*, also found in Morona-Santiago, but the latter is distinguished by the rounded sepals, spatulate petals and short, triangular, lateral lobes of the lip.



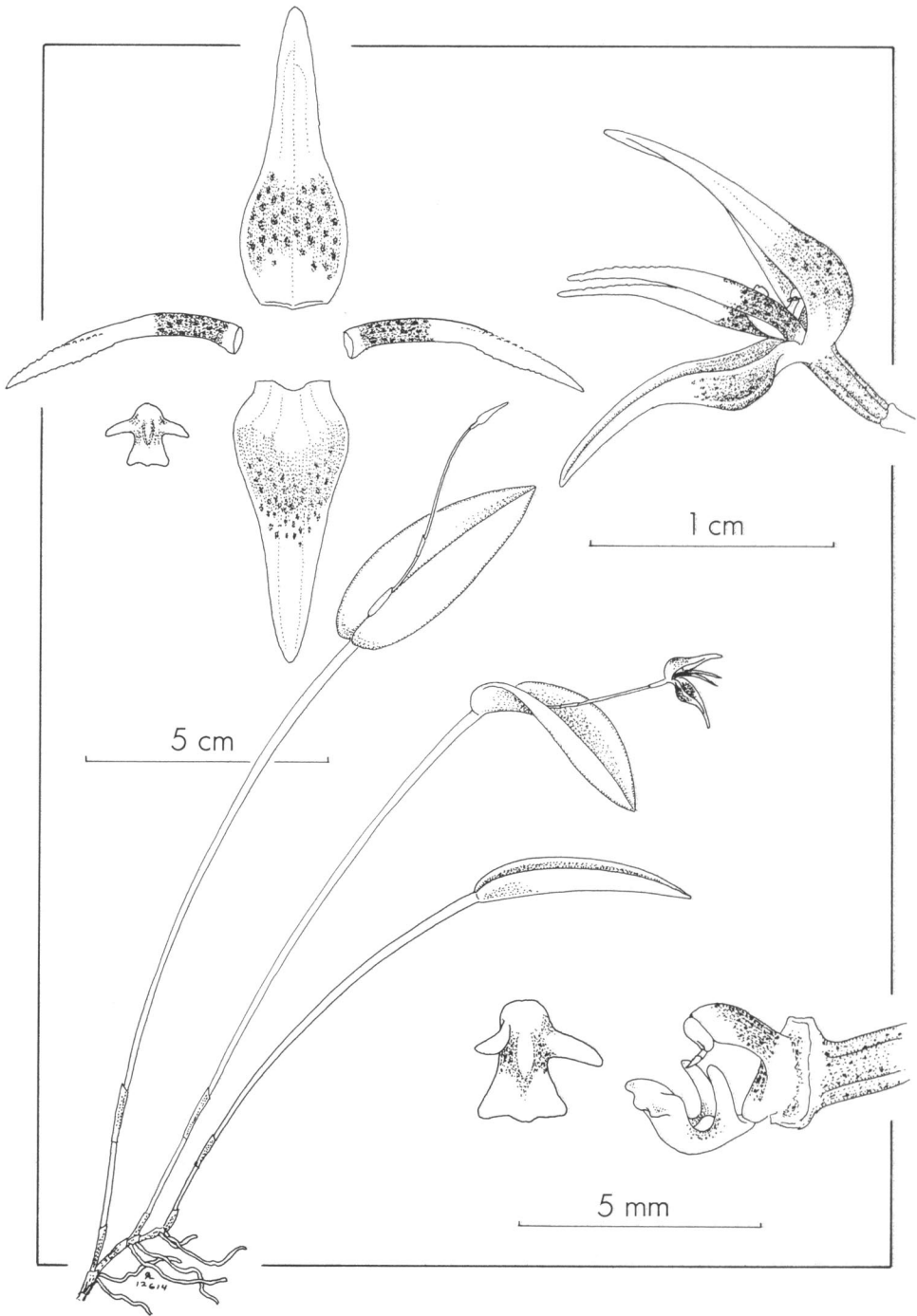


Plate 5. *Pleurothallis condorensis* Luer & Hirtz