

***Pleurothallis cosmetron* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Greek *kosmetron*, "a broom," in allusion to the brushlike inflorescence.

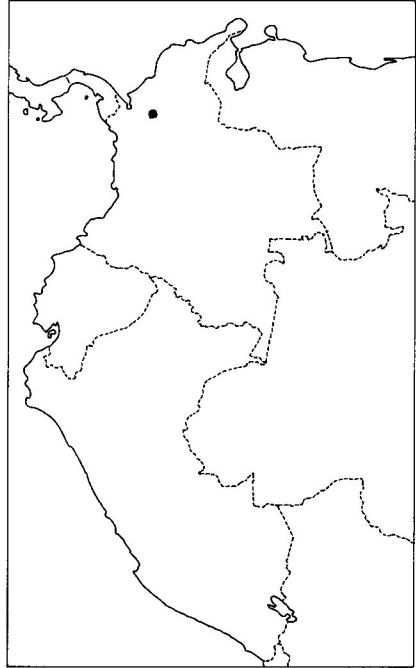
Inter species subgeneris *Scopulae* Luer, statura grandis, ramicauli folio obovato longe decurrenti, ramicauli usque ad medium folii immerso, usque ad apicem liberi, pedunculis brevibus dense fasciculatis, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque ovatis longiacuminatis, petalis longiacuminatis marginibus minute papillois, labello ovato acuminatissimo, disco infra medium calloso breviter pubescenti distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, presumably caespitose; roots unknown (the ramicauls not complete in the specimen). Ramicauls stout, erect, more than 10-13 cm long below the leaf, no doubt with 2-3 tubular sheaths, immersed in the lower half of the leaf. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, obovate, obtuse, shortly acuminate, 11-17 cm long, 4-6 cm wide, the base cuneate and decurrent onto the ramicaul, the vascular bundle of the inflorescence emerging near the middle of the leaf, then free for 3.5-6 cm. **Inflorescence** a dense fascicle of numerous, single-flowered peduncles 3-5 mm long, subtended by a spathe 8-15 mm long, produced at the tip of the free vascular bundle, the flowers appearing intermittently; floral bracts tubular, 3-6 mm long; pedicels 10-15 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** yellowish according to the collector, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave in the lower third, the apex acute, long-acuminate, 10-11 mm long, 2.75-3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, 10-11 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** ovate and oblique in the lower third, the apex acute, long-acuminate, 10 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, with the margins cellular-papillose; **lip** ovate, the apex acute, long-attenuate, 3.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the margins subacutely angled above the base, the lower third occupied by a thick, shortly pubescent callus, the base truncate, delicately hinged to the column-foot; **column** thick, semiterete, 1 mm long and wide, the foot abbreviated, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Córdoba (ex-Bolívar): Páramo de Chaquiro, epiphytic in subparamo shrub zone, alt. 2800-3100 m, 24 Feb. 1918, *F. W. Pennell* 4352 (Holotype: NY), C. Luer illustr. 15511.

This species of subgenus *Scopula* is very rare in northern Colombia, apparently not having been collected before nor since the original collection by Francis W. Pennell in 1918. Unfortunately, the ramicauls of all five specimens have been broken off above the bases, so that neither their total length nor the habit of the rhizome and roots is known.

The large, obovate leaf with the ramicaul embedded within the lower half, and then with the vascular bundle of the inflorescence free to near the apex of the leaf is distinctive. At the tip of the free portion a densely fasciculate mass of peduncles and pedicels accumulates, resembling a small shaving brush. The flowers are produced singly and successively. The sepals and petals are most similar to those of *P. scoparum* Reichb. f. and *P. tetroxys* Luer. The long-attenuate apex of the lip is most distinctive.



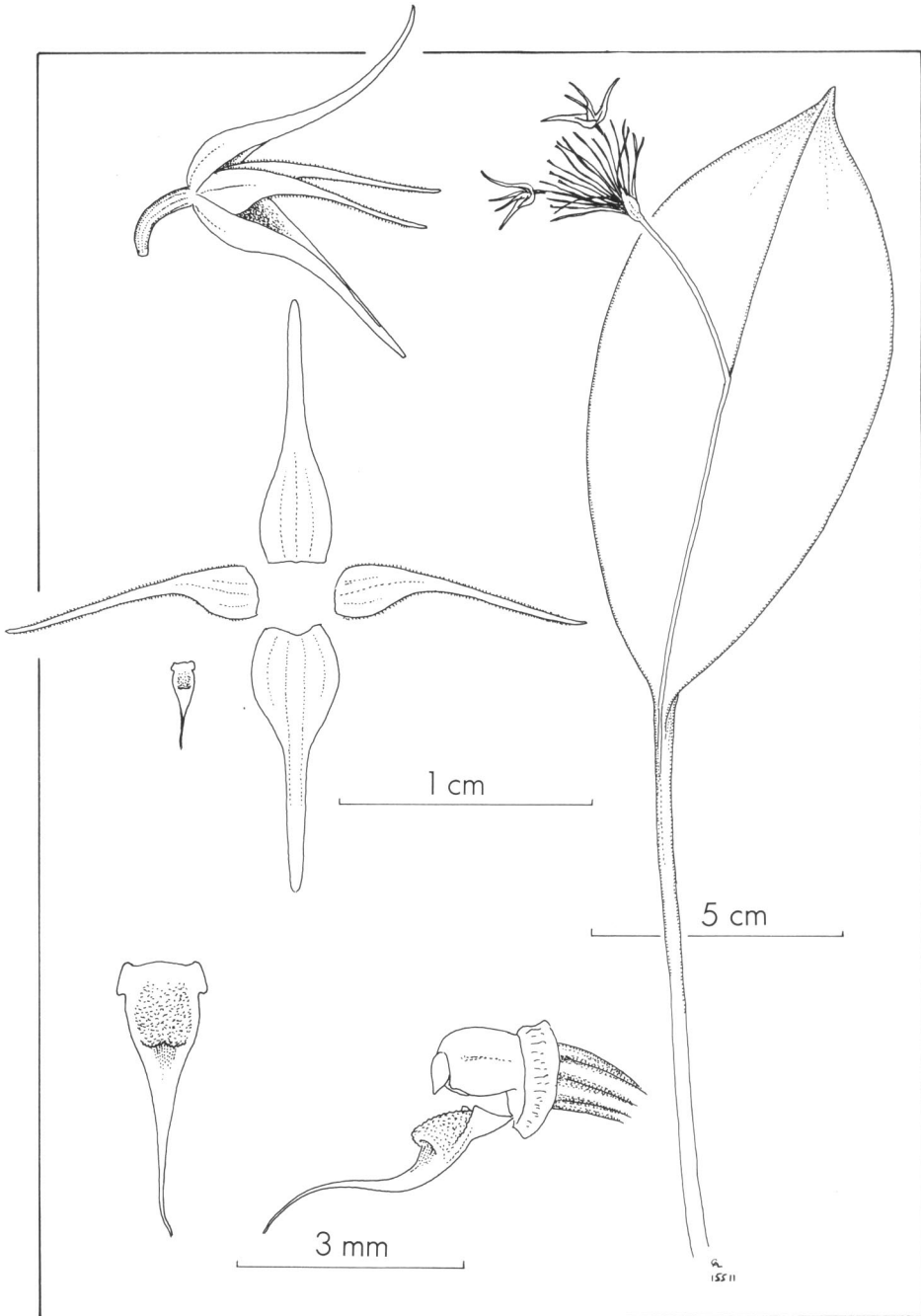


Plate 7. *Pleurothallis cosmetron* Luer