

Pleurothallis cunabularis Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *cunabularis*, "of a cradle," referring to the synsepal and lip.

Species haec *P. cernuae* Luer affinis, sed habitu majore, folio latiore ad basim abrupte contracto et labello subplano lateribus non incurvis differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 10-19 cm long, with a tightly fitting tubular sheath above the base and 2-3 others at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-oblong, subacute, abruptly acuminate, 9-11 cm long excluding the petiole, 3-4.5 cm wide, broadly cuneate or rounded below, abruptly contracted into a petiole 1.2-1.5 cm long. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive, 1-flowered peduncles, 1.5-2.5 cm long, produced from a spathe ca. 0.5 cm long; floral bracts tubular, 4 mm long; pedicels 4-5 mm long; ovary 9 mm long; **sepals** yellow-green, translucent, glabrous, the middle sepal narrowly ovate, acute, 13 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into a deeply concave, cymbiform, acute synsepal, 12 mm long, 7 mm wide unexpanded, 6-veined; **petals** yellow, glabrous, narrowly ovate, acute, 10.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, transversely ovate-suborbicular, 4 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, minutely apiculate, the disc shallowly concave, with a small, shallowly cleft callus at the base, the base hinged to an obsolescent column-foot; **column** stout, terete, 1.5 mm long, the foot obsolescent, the anther, rostellum and stigma apical.

COLOMBIA: **Chocó**: Munic. San José del Palmar, Cerro del Torrá, between heliport and the mesa below the crest, alt. 1940-2450 m, 30 Aug. 1988, *P. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R.T. González, J.E. Ramos, L.H. Ramos & A. Henao* 4909 (Holotype: CUV; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 18468.

This species, apparently endemic on Cerro del Torrá in the Western Cordillera, is similar to the Ecuadorian *P. cernua*, but *P. cunabularis* is larger vegetatively with broader leaves that are abruptly contracted into the petiole. The flowers of both species are produced in a fascicle of single-flowered peduncles. The sepals and petals are similar, but the lip of *P. cunabularis* is flat and slightly concave centrally instead of being concave with incurved sides.

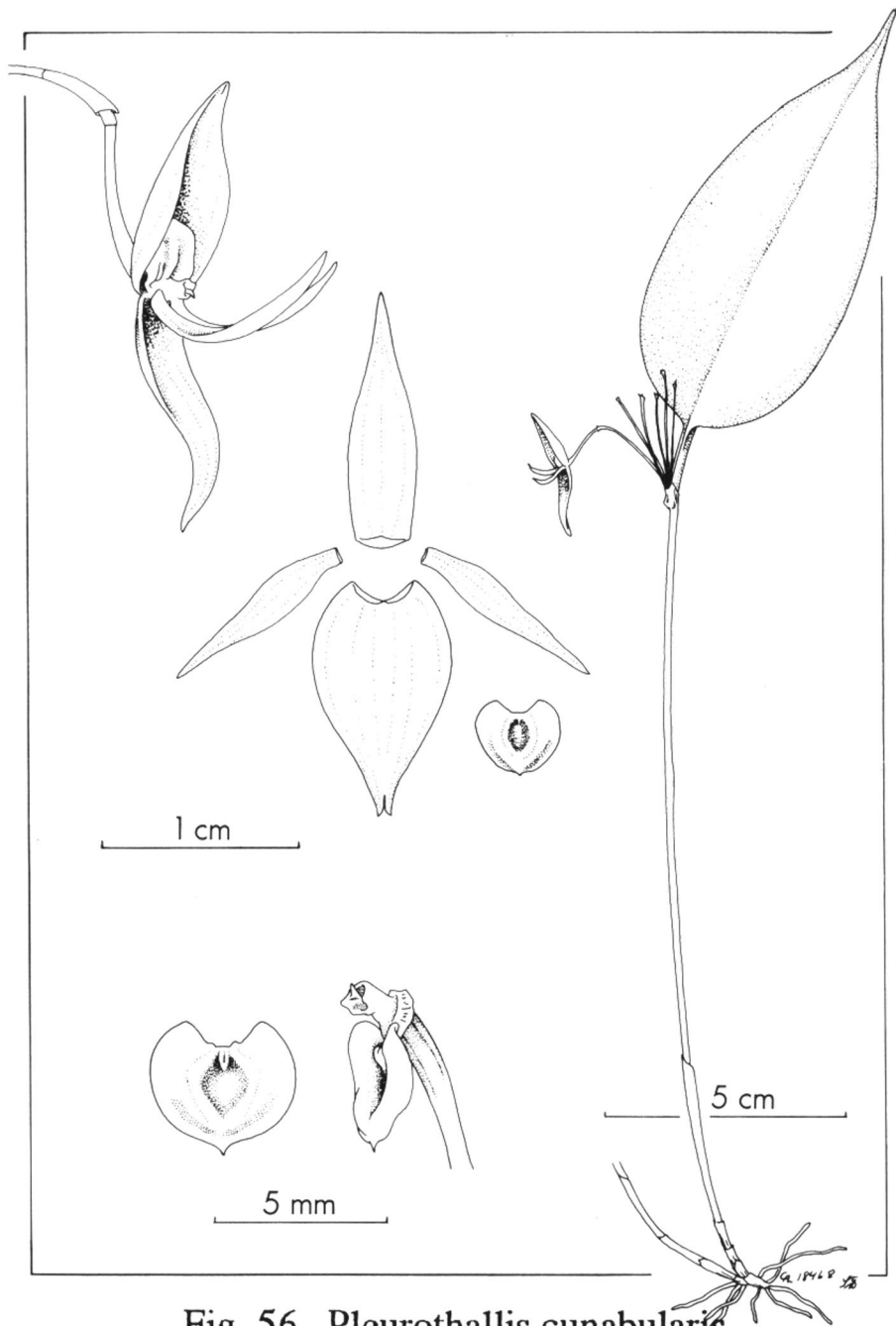


Fig. 56. *Pleurothallis cunabularis*