

***Pleurothallis deflexa* Luer, sp. nov.**

Species habitu cum sectione *Macrophyllis-Fasciculatis* Lindl. congruens, folio anguste ovato cordato, flore mediocri purpureo, sepalis ellipticis, petalis subfalciformibus serrulatis, labello subquadrato erecto, lateribus labelli deflexis, apice labelli ascendenti.

Plant medium-sized, terrestrial caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, slender, terete, to 30 cm tall, with a tubular sheath below the middle and another 1 or 2 at the base, unifoliate. Leaf ovate, acuminate, tridentate, base cordate, sessile, 7-11 X 2-3.5 cm. Inflorescence fasciculate, purple flowers appearing singly from a spathe 12-13 mm long from the base of the leaf; floral bract tubular, about 4 mm long; pedicel 4-8 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; dorsal sepal elliptical acute, 12-15 X 4-6 mm, 3-veined, the veins prominent dorsally; lateral sepals united into an ovate synsepal, acute, 10-13 X 7 mm, 4-veined; petals linear-subfalcate, oblique, acute 6-8 X 1 mm, somewhat thickened, 1-veined, margin serrulate; lip brownish, subquadrate, 4 X 4 mm, more or less erect in the natural position, both sides abruptly deflexed above the middle, apex acute and ascending, base concave at the junction with the column-foot, surface minutely verrucose, margins erose; column 2 X 2 mm with a column-foot 1.5 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *deflexus*, "deflected or bent downwards," referring to the sides of the lip which are abruptly deflexed above the middle.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PICHINCHA: Terrestrial on the road embankment, about km 70 between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. 2000 m, 10 March 1975. C. Luer & R. Kent 225, HOLOTYPE in SEL.

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This species occurs terrestrially along roadsides, and also undoubtedly epiphytically, at moderately high elevations. Vegetatively the plant is similar to many others in the section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*: a narrowly ovate, cordate leaf borne at the summit of a long slender stem. The flower is moderate in size and purplish. It is immediately distinguished by its lip which is seen to protrude nearly erectly from the center of the flower. The sides of the lip are folded downward to create a central elevation along the center, and the apex curves upward. The margins are finely erose and the surface is microscopically papular.

The lip with the deflected sides is similar to that of *Pleurothallis jupiter*, page 190, this issue, but the latter is easily distinguished by its flowers of thrice greater size, broad pilose petals, and a rough warty surface of the lip with a tubercle below the apex.

The lip is also similar to that of *P. tonduzii* Schltr. from Costa Rica, but the apex of the lip of the latter is recurved in a fashion similar to the sides of the lip.

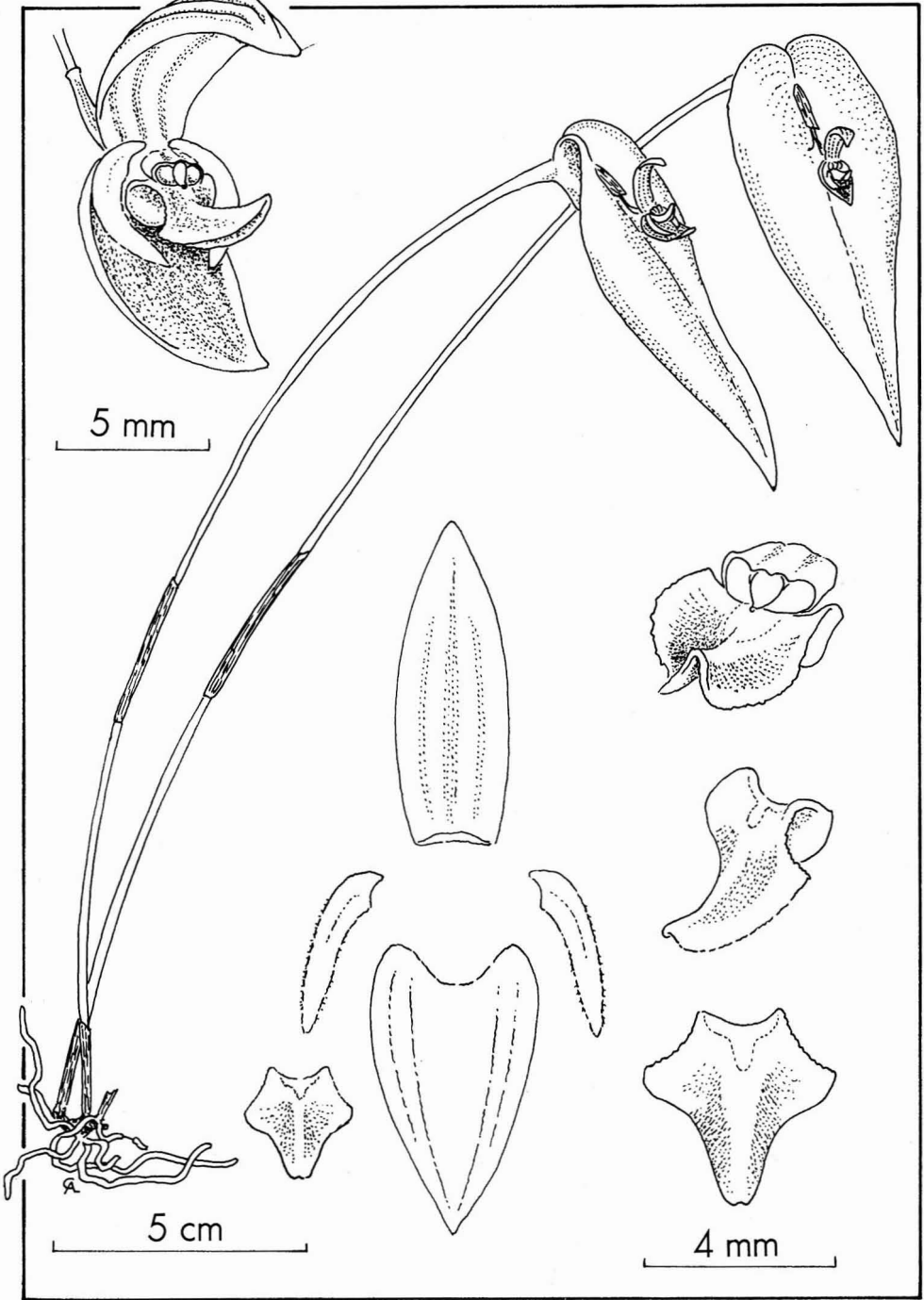


Figure 25. PLEUROTHALLIS DEFLEXA Luer