

**Pleurothallis dibolia** Luer, sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica parva vel mediocris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, folio erecto anguste ovato acuto base cordata, floribus perparvis luteolis fasciculatis brevipedicellatis, sepalo dorsale et synsepalo ovatis subacutis, petalis anguste ovatis, labello brunneola late ovato cordato obtuso base disci bicallosa.

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, small to medium in size; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stem erect, slender, terete, 6-34 cm long, with a tight tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, monophyllous. Leaf erect, narrowly ovate, margins revolute in large specimens, acute to acuminate, tridenticulate, base of mature leaves shallowly cordate, sessile, 7-13 X 1.5-3.5 cm. Inflorescence fasciculate, flowers single, 1-10, successive, very small, yellow with a brown lip, short-pedicellate, from the base of the leaf; spathe evanescent, up to 7 mm long; floral bract acute, tubular, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 3-4 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 3.5-4 X 2-2.5 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into a broadly ovate synsepal, 3-3.5 X 3 mm, 4-veined; petals linear to narrowly ovate, acute, margin smooth to obscurely serrated, 1.75 X 0.5 mm, 1-veined; lip broadly ovate to cordate, subacute to obtuse, 1.5 X 1.25 mm, disc with a pair of rounded calli separated by a channel at the base; column 1 X 1 mm, with a foot 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *dibolia*, "a double edged lance," in allusion to the appearance of the plant.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in old coffee trees 15 km east of Santo Domingo, alt. 800 m, 28 Feb. 1975, *C. Luer & R. Kent* 269 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); epiphytic in orange trees near Santo Domingo, alt. 625 m, 6 Feb. 1963, *Dodson & Thien* 2240 (SEL); same area, 15 June 1967, *Dodson, Williams & Adams* 3709 (SEL); COTOPAXI: epiphytic in guava trees near km 38 between Quevedo and Latacunga, lat. 500 m, 5 March 1975, *C. Luer & R. Kent* 339 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Although this species is a common epiphyte at low elevations of the western foothills of the Andes, it is probably restricted to that area. It is not found on the road cuts which so many other epiphytic species seem to colonize readily. It is surprising that a species, which inhabits nearly every citrus, coffee, or guava grove over a wide and populated area, has escaped a formal description. Perhaps these recently introduced habitats account for a population explosion.

The plant is easily recognized by its clump of long, straight and slender stems with narrow erect leaves, which resemble a fascicle of double bladed spears. The leaves of mature plants are narrowly ovate with revolute margins and an indistinctly cordate base. The leaves of juvenile plants are proportionately narrower, without revolute margins, and with a rounded or broadly cuneate base. The little dull yellow flowers with a brown lip are produced singly and continuously in an ever renewing bundle at the base of the leaf. The blunt, heart-shaped lip is provided with a pair of gradually sloping convexities which nearly meet just below the rostellum.

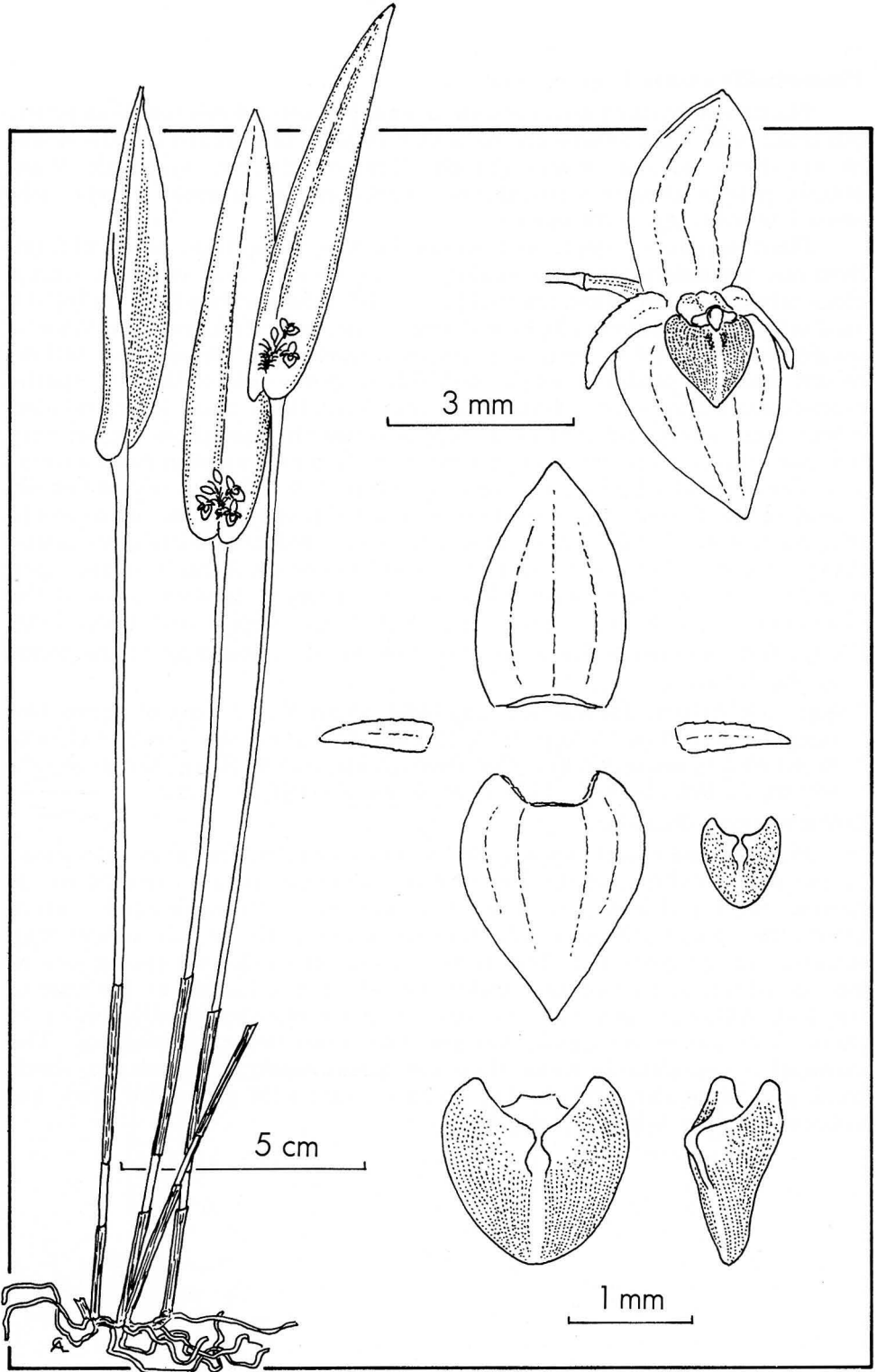


Figure 54. *PLEUROTHALLIS DIBOLIA* Luer