

**Pleurothallis dimidia** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *dimidius*, "half the size," referring to the smaller habit and flowers.

Species haec *P. acuminatae* (H.B.K.) Lindl. similis, sed foliis ellipticis minoribus et floribus albivirescentibus minoribus differt.

**Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls blackish, erect, slender, 3-6 cm long, with a tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 other sheaths at the base. Leaf erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute to obtuse, petiolate, 3-5 cm long, 0.8-1.3 wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a loose, subsecund, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, 4-8 cm long including the peduncle 1-2 cm long, subtended by a spathe 5-8 mm long, from an annulus 1-2 mm below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicels 2-3 mm long; ovary 1.75-2 mm long; sepals greenish white, glabrous externally, minutely short-pubescent within, subcarinate, narrowly oblong-ovate, subacute, the dorsal sepal 6-9 mm long, 1.75-2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals free, oblique, forming a mentum below the column-foot, 6-9 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; petals translucent white, oblong, obtuse, 2-2.5 mm long, 0.5-1 mm wide, obscurely 3-veined, carinate externally along the midvein; lip white, oblong, arcuate, 2.2-3 mm long, 0.6-1 mm wide, the apex obtuse to round, the microscopically verrucose and arose, the disc shallowly sulcate between a pair of longitudinal calli along the middle two-thirds of the lip, the base subtruncate, hinged to the column-foot; column slender, longitudinally winged, 1.75-2 mm long, the foot 1 mm long, the anther and the stigma ventral.**

**BOLIVIA: La Paz** Inquisivi, Polea, west of Inquisivi, alt. 2400 m, 26 Nov. 1992, *C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 16497* (Holotype: MO); Saavedra, below Charazani, alt. 2550, 19 Nov. 1992, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez et al. 16450* (MO). **Cochabamba:** Carrasco, Sehucenas, alt. 2100 m, 15 Nov. 1993, *P. Ibisch 93.1363* (MO).

**PERU: Cuzco:** Paucartambo, Pillawata, Paso del Aguila, alt. 2800 m, 4 Nov. 1965, *C. Vargas 16768* (AMES, CUZ). **Huánuco:** below Panao, alt. 2800 m, 7 Aug. 1980, *C. Luer, J. Luer, W. Königer, H. Königer & M. Arias 5315* (SEL).

**COLOMBIA: Magdalena:** Santa Marta, Hda. Cincinnati, alt. 7,100 ft., 2 Aug. 1946, *M.B. Foster, R. Foster & E. Smith 1332* (AMES). **Santander:** Páramo de las Puenteas, oak forest above La Baja, alt. 3300-3400 m, 25-31 Jan. 1927, *E.P. Killip & A.C. Smith 18259* (AMES, NY, US).

**VENEZUELA: Táchira:** near Las Copas cliffs, headwaters of the Río Quinimarí, alt. 2400 m, Sept. 1972, *G.C.K. Dunsterville 1238*.

This species, widely distributed in the Andes from northern Colombia to central Bolivia, is very similar to the relatively common *P. acuminata*, but it is distinguished from the latter by the smaller habit and smaller, greenish white flowers. It had been considered merely a smaller variation, but populations of these plants occur sporadically within the distribution of the larger, yellow-flowered *P. acuminata*. The leaves are elliptical, about one centimeter wide, and surpassed by the raceme of small, delicate flowers with narrowly oblong sepals. Dunsterville's illustration erroneously identified as *P. asperilinguis* in *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated* appears to be this species.

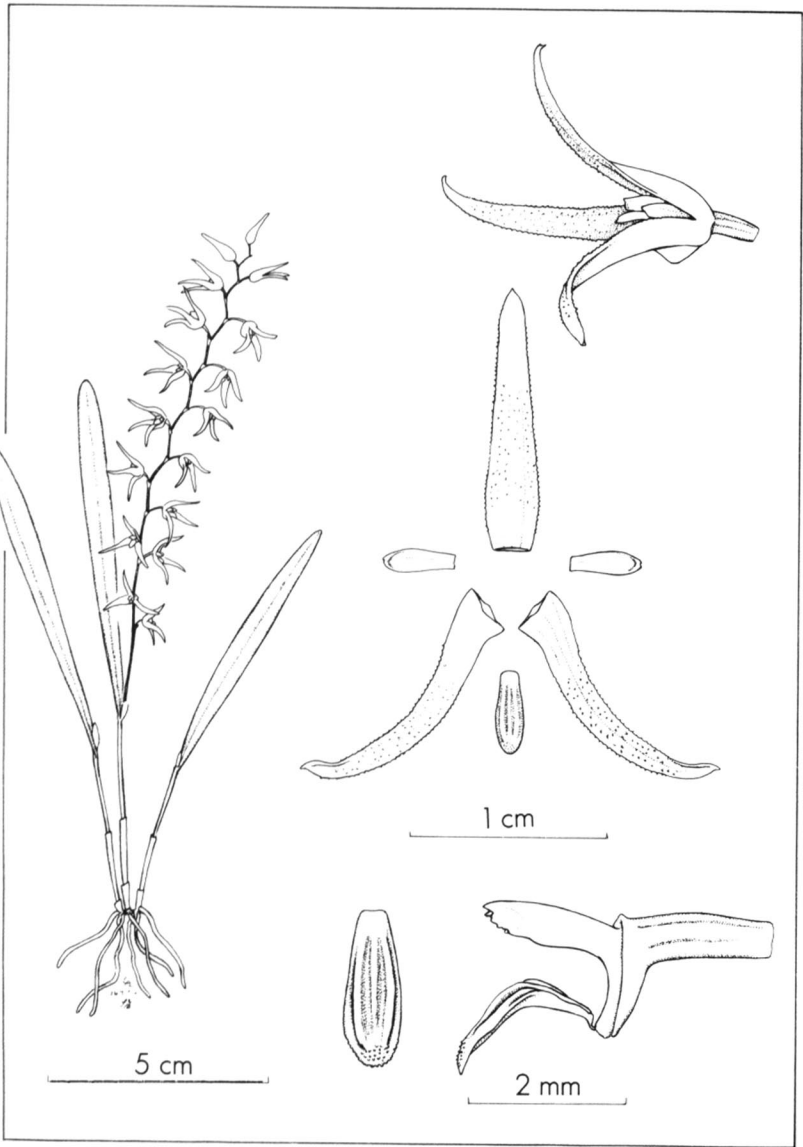


Fig. 11. *Pleurothallis dimidia*