

***Pleurothallis ensata* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta epiphytica parva caespitosa, caulibus secundariis tenuibus teretibus unifoliatis, foliis ensatis erectis acutis, floribus fasciculatis cernuis singulis aut binis fulvidis, sepalo dorsali elliptico subacuto, synsepalo ovato obtuso, petalis anguste triangularibus acutis crassis carinatis, labello ochraceo late ovato apice rotundato.

Plant epiphytic, small to medium in size, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems ascending, terete, slender, 3-22 cm long, with a close tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliate. Leaf erect, very narrowly elliptical, linear, acute, tridenticulate, base cuneate, sessile, 4-11 cm \times 5-15 mm. Inflorescence fasciculate, flowers dull yellow-brown, nodding, produced singly or doubly from the base of the leaf; spathe evanescent, 3-8 mm long; pedicel 5-8 mm long; floral bract loose, tubular, 3 mm long; ovary 3-4 mm long; sepals yellowish, sometimes tinged with red, sometimes microscopically maculate, with the veins prominent externally; dorsal sepal elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 7-9 \times 2.5-3.5 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into a cordate to ovate synsepal, obtuse, occasionally bidentate, 6-8 \times 4.5-5 mm, 4-veined; petals reddish, triangular, acute, fleshy, carinate, 2-2.5 \times 0.5-1 mm; lip yellow-brown, broadly ovate, apex rounded, 2.5-3 \times 2 mm, with a low, smooth, rounded bilobed callus at the base below the column; column small, 1 \times 1 mm, with a foot 1 mm long. ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *ensatus*, "sword-like," referring to the shape of the leaves.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PICHINCHA: epiphytic about 25 km east of Santo Domingo, alt. 1000 m, 15 Aug. 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 579 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); epiphytic in coffee trees 15 km east of Santo Domingo, alt. 800 m, 28 Feb. 1975, C. Luer & R. Kent 268 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Pleurothallis ensata apparently occurs locally at moderate elevations of the western slopes of the Province of Pichincha. It is recognized by its narrow, erect leaf borne on a long, slender stem. Although some mature plants are comparatively small, standing scarcely 10 cm tall, others may stand 25 cm or more tall. The medium-sized brown flowers appear one or two at a time, and droop on slender pedicels from a fascicle at the base of the leaf. Although only half the size, they are morphologically similar to those of *P. ruberrima* Lindl., but the two could never be confused. The synsepal is considerably wider than the dorsal sepal, the petals are short, thick and triangular, and the lip, which is ovate with a rounded apex, lies appressed to the synsepal behind.

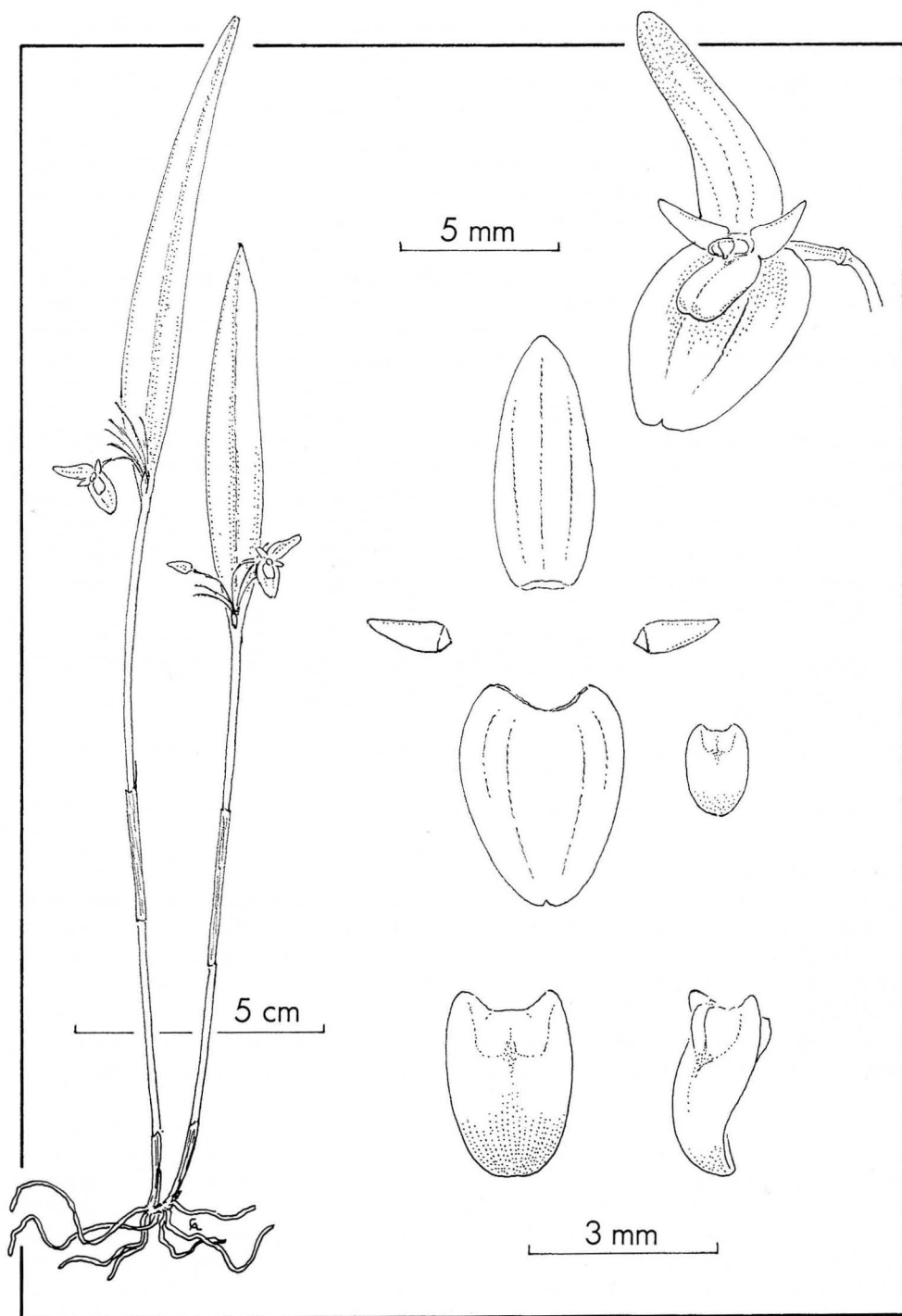


Figure 55. *PLEUROTHALLIS ENSATA* Luer