

***Pleurothallis fastidiosa* Luer, sp. nov.**

Habitu et floribus *P. loranthophyllae* Rchb. f. et *P. navicularis* Lindl. similis, differt petalis subulatis galbrisque et labello crasso sine lateribus incurvatis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 4-11 cm long, with a close-fitting tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, thin, narrowly ovate, acute to acuminate, tridenticulate, the base cuneate into a channeled petiole, 6-11 × 2-3.5 cm, including the 1 cm petiole. Inflorescence racemose, solitary (occasionally 2), arcuate, loosely few-to many-flowered (5-16), 10-20 cm long, the flowers pale yellow-green, spotted with red-purple; peduncle slender, weak, from a foliaceous spathe, 4-5.5 cm long, 6 mm broad, from the base of the leaf-petiole; floral bract infundibular, acute, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 2-3 mm long; ovary spotted with purple, 4 mm long; dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, acute to acuminate, 10-11 × 2.5-3 mm, 3-veined, yellow-green, spotted with purple; lateral sepals united into an ovate lamina, subacute, 10-11 × 4.5-5 mm, 4-veined, similar to the dorsal sepal; petals very narrowly triangular, attenuate, acuminate, acute, 9-11 × 1 mm, 3-veined at the base, maroon or spotted with purple; lip thickened, narrowly ovate, acute, convex, dilated slightly below the middle, the sides not incurved, the base broadly and firmly adherent to the column-foot; column stout, 1.5 mm long, with a broad, short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *fastidiosus*, "sensitive, delicate," in allusion to the delicate, fragile flowers.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: NAPO: epiphytic in felled trees ca. 14 km north of Archidona, alt. ca. 500 m, 27 July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & S. Wilhelm 670 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 44-75-432. PASTAZA: epiphytic in felled trees 20 km east of Puyo, alt. ca. 500m, 28 July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 1266 (SEL), cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no 44-75-252.

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Ecuador.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SEEN: *ECUADOR*: PASTAZA?: without definite locality, Janet Kuhn 10 (SEL).

Vegetatively this species is similar to *Pleurothallis loranthophylla* Rchb. f. and *P. navicularis* Lindl. At the base of the narrowly ovate (instead of elliptical-oblong), petiolate leaf, the arching raceme emerges from a long, obliquely raised spathe. The spotted flowers are also similar to those of the latter two species, except for the petals and lip. The petals are narrowed above the base into a narrowly linear, acuminate apex. The lip is thickened and rigid, slightly dilated toward the base, but the surface is flat or convex without incurved, membranous sides.

The short-lasting, delicate flowers are very fragile, and they begin to wilt soon after the plant is removed from the greenhouse.

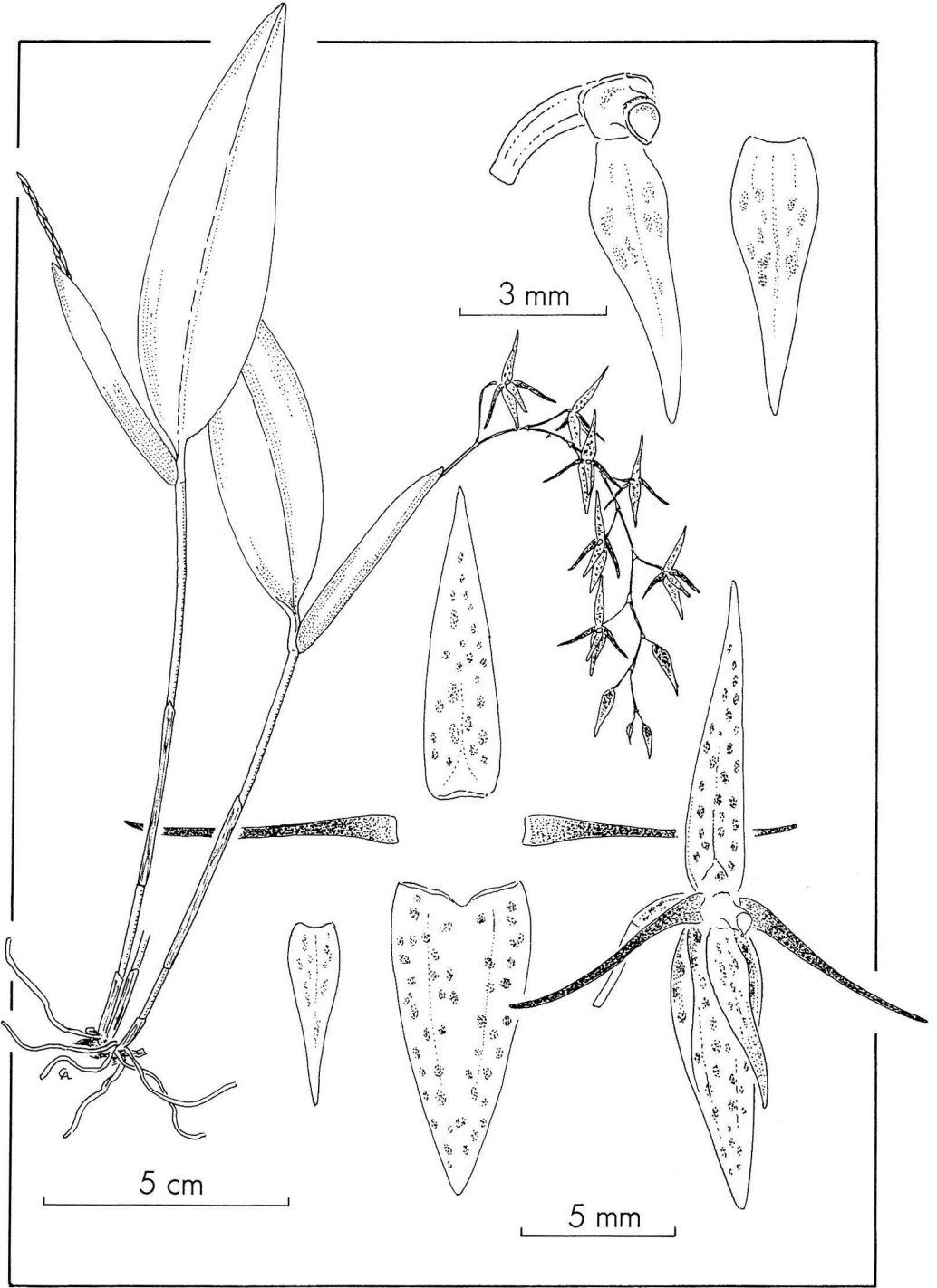


Figure 250. *PLEUROTHALLIS FASTIDIOSA* Luer