

***Pleurothallis geographica* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unfoliatis, foliis patentibus coriaceis ovatis acuminatis tridenticulatis base cordatis sessilibus, floribus singularibus successivis sepalis petalisque flavis labello purpureo, sepalo dorsali late elliptico obtuso, synsepalo late ovato obtuso, petalis linearis acutis glabris, labello carnoso ovato obtuso base truncato, disco leviter concavo glebuloso.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, slender, terete, 10-15 cm long, unifoliate, with 2-3 closely fitting, tubular sheaths near the base. Leaf spreading, coriaceous, rigid, ovate, slightly acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base cordate, sessile, 5.5-7 cm long, 2-2.4 cm wide. Inflorescence fasciculate, the flowers bilabiate, produced singly and successively from a spathe about 1 cm long, often shed or shredded, at the base of the leaf; floral bract 6-7 mm long; pedicel 7-8 mm long; ovary 4.5 mm long; sepals and petals light yellow; dorsal sepal broadly elliptical, obtuse, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into a broadly ovate synsepal, obtuse, suffused with pink, 7 mm long, 6 mm wide, 4-veined; petals linear, acute, glabrous, 5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; lip red-purple, fleshy, ovate, obtuse, the base truncate with rounded corners, concave on the end, the disc slightly sulcate-concave, the surface minutely rugose to glebulose, 3.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; column stout, green, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *geographicus*, "geographic" (from the Greek *geo-*, "earth-," and *graphos*, "something drawn or written"), in allusion to the surface of the lip.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic near the road ca. 25 km north of Loja, alt. ca. 2000 m, 5 March 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & K. Cordoba 1579 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 77-1805, flowered in cult. 5 April 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This species is basically similar to many others in the great horde of the cordate-leaved species of *Pleurothallis*. The rather small, rigid leaves spread horizontally from slender stems. The red-purple lip is conspicuous in the proportionately large, light yellow flowers. The narrow petals spread widely to either side. The most distinguishing feature of the plant is the surface of the blunt, ovate lip. The glenion is well-formed and the center of the lip is slightly sulcate. Radiating toward the margins are minute, irregular, branching rows of shallow rugae and glebulae with larger tuberosities toward the apex, resembling a geographic surface.

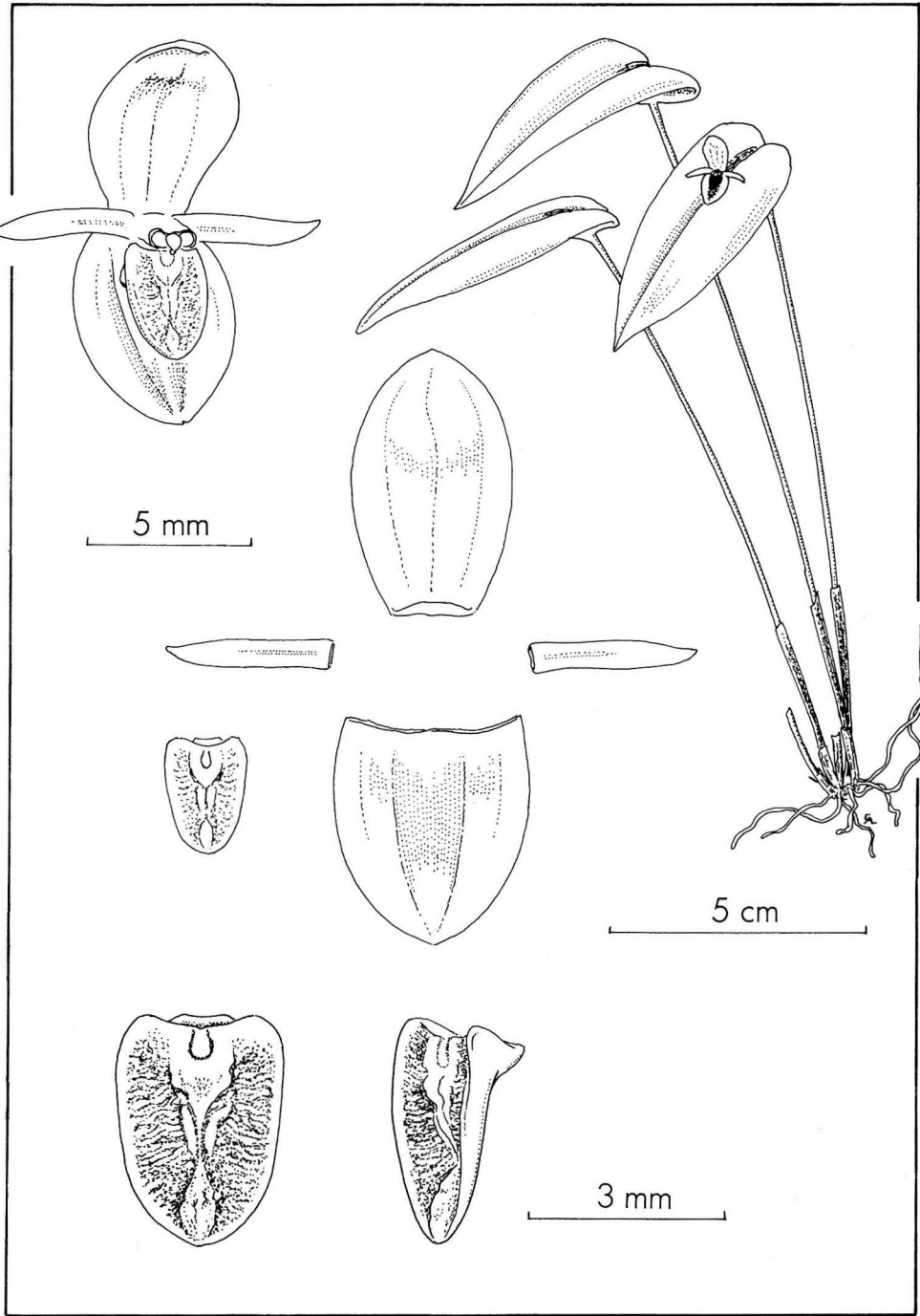


Figure 255. *PLEUROTHALLIS GEOGRAPHICA* Luer